

INSIDE

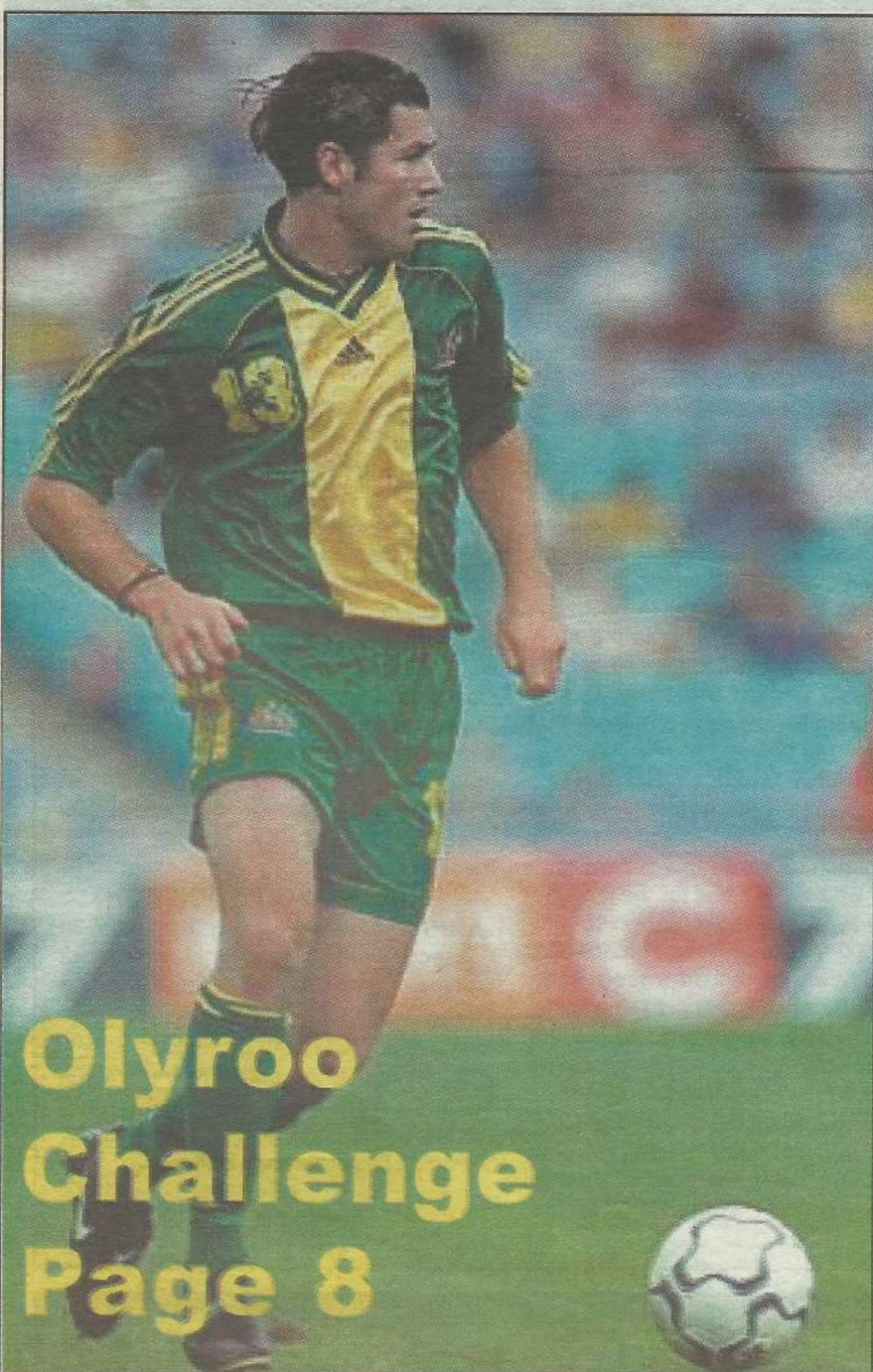
Your quality Australian weekly soccer paper for the new millennium

SOCCER

Registered with Australia Post as a publication PP224696/00050 - ISSN 1321-8980

January 18, 2000. \$3.00

IT'S URGENT: MORE OLYROO GAMES



By Greg Blake

Australia's gallant but under-prepared Olympic soccer team will not get close to a dias finish at the Sydney Olympiad later this year.

If Olympic medals were decided on heart and courage and commitment, Raul Blanco's team would be in a photo-finish with any under-23 outfit in the world, but a lack of preparation will cost the Aussies a chance at invaluable world game glory on home soil.

That is the obvious conclusion to be drawn from last week's Four Nation Tournament in Adelaide, where the Olyroos showed enough in narrow victories over Atlanta gold medalists Nigeria and tenacious Egypt to suggest definite medal potential.

But in what amounted to the 'final' of the round-robin last Saturday night the Aussies were cleaned out convincingly by arch-rivals Korea, the decisive 3-0 margin merely accentuating the gulf between the two nations at this level of competition.

"They are good, aren't they," said a downcast but not dispirited Blanco of the Korean team which has now won four straight against the Olyroos.

"It's all in the preparation though," he said.

"Have a look how many games they (Korea) have played this year compared to us.

"And look at what a difference it has made."

The Koreans edged the Olyroos in consecutive games on Aussie soil last year, but the gap between the two countries was slighter and Korea went home with problems to address, including a traditional lack of robust, tall players and an abysmal conversion rate.

Some twenty matches later and Korea has re-emerged with an impressive armoury to build around marquee man, glamour for-

ward Lee Dong-Gook, with eight of its current squad 184 cms or bigger, while having lost nothing in the superlative skills and speed departments during the transition.

And the likes of Seon Ki-Hyeon, Choi Chui-Woo and Lee Kwan-Woo have bulked up a deep roster now capable of world class finishing, as they showed with an impressive 8-0 goal difference from the three-game Adelaide series, including a couple of classics which helped demoralise Australia.

In the same period the Olyroos have scratched together a meagre nine games to help Blanco and Co. get the blend right, despite the shallow promise of a thorough "50-game" Olympic preparation by the powers that be nearly two years ago.

And it makes a mockery of Australian soccer's organisational skills and foresight that we knew that our lads would be competing in this series some four or more years ago, when Australia was announced as the 2000 Olympics host nation.

Mercifully, we do know that Korea has booked its place at Sydney 2000, thus we have a yardstick for the standard we can expect from the world's best at this level.

Our time isn't up yet, but every second lost is to the advantage of every one of the other hungry nations either in the running or confirmed for the Sydney games.

Even adding say, Mark Bosnich, Paul Okon and Mark Viduka (as Australia's over-age players) and Harry Kewell to the mix for the Games, will prove futile unless the Olympic team gets a thorough preparation.

Make no mistake, the signs were there in Adelaide, even if the timing was slightly off and many of the Olyroo lads were adjusting to both the unfamiliar hot conditions and teammates who had been drawn together from competitions world wide.

Continued on page two

Plus: MARCUS PHILLIPS, IVAN VICELICH, NICK BOSEVSKI, IAN CROOK, MATTHEW KEMP, ANTHONY DOUMANIS, AUSSIES ABROAD, MATILDAS, NSW SUPER LEAGUE, GREG BLAKE, NSL, NYL AND AUSSIE SCHOOLBOYS SPECIAL

S-news

Inside Soccer's
Australian news
and goss

Continued from front page

"It was hard to get a team game going in such a short period of time," said West Ham's durable Chris Coyne, the same day as he publicly declared his commitment to the cause by telling the media he'd trade a first-team place at Upton Park for Olympic success in 2000.

The likes of Steve Laybutt, Lucas Neill and Hayden Foxe carried arguably needless injuries out of the Adelaide series and many squad members were prepared to jeopardise their places in the professional football food chain at their overseas clubs by playing in Adelaide.

"Mate, I love coming back here to play, it's what you want to do," said a bubbly Nick Rizzo.

That patriotism and commitment to Olympic success was overwhelming and now the kids should be rewarded for that loyalty by getting the best possible shot at success.

Thus far the only feeble excuse for not providing a lead-up program even approaching adequate has been budget constraints.

When it comes down to dollars, Soccer Australia needs to show some rare common sense - and right now.

Never has the ethic of spending money to make money been more applicable, and there isn't one fan (or stakeholder, I should imagine) of the game in this country who wouldn't happily encourage Soccer Australia to go deeply into the financial red once again, if it meant these terrific kids getting a fair chance of Olympic glory.

"It's obvious that the raw talent is

there, but at the same time you cannot hope to harness that without letting them play together as often as possible - practise makes perfect," said former Aussie skipper and C7 commentator, Paul Wade.

"The more they play together, the better they'll get."

"It's that simple."

Perhaps only the '98 World Cup last hurdle failure in front of a huge audience both live at the MCG and on national television ranks as a more opportune moment missed for the world game to etch a place of pride in the domestic sporting landscape.



The entire Olyroo camp, most every expert and analyst in Adelaide - and probably every arm-chair fan in the country - were unanimous in their verdict for the 2000 Olyroos after last week.

If these talented young men are to have a chance of breaking new

ground for the game in this country - and that is a huge psychological burden to shoulder in itself - and record an historic result at the Sydney Olympiad the only answer is more games, more games and more bloody games.

It's not too late, but unless SA commits itself to hastily organising a committed and extensive pre-Olympiad program for Blanco's (pictured) team, it soon will be.

Even then a podium finish is a huge ask, but at least then we can say we gave these terrific athletes the very best chance we could.

They deserve that much, and so does the game in Australia.

INSIDE SOCCER

PO BOX 3889
PARRAMATTA NSW 2124

PHONE: (02) 9806 0554
FAX: (02) 9806 0553

MANAGING EDITOR: JOHN VRTARIC
Email: johnv@insidesoccer.com.au

EDITOR: AIDAN ORMOND
E-mail: editor@insidesoccer.com.au

Correspondents: Melbourne: GREG BLAKE
Sydney: ROGER SLEEMAN,
BEN CUBBY

IS's VALUED CONTRIBUTORS: Alan Clark, Mark Fisher, Kevin Christopher, Melissa Muscat, Margaret Bowden, Stephen Webb, Donald Campbell, Paul Goodwin, Chris Dunkerley, Cameron Atfield, Lucio Viggiano, Dennis Gedling, Jeremy Ruane, Chris Conti, Richard Beazley, Jack Warner, Michael Kmet, Mark Fowler, Daniela Raco, Anissa Tann-Darby, Ian Crook, Nick Guoth, Grant Stantiall, Roy Hay, Sue Howlett, Mark Fowler, Stuart Jones, Peter Smith.

ADVERTISING: SYDNEY: JOHN VRTARIC
(02) 98060554 or 0412 698 185
ROGER SLEEMAN (02) 9806 0554/0415 160 297
MELBOURNE: GREG BLAKE (03) 9370 1217

Photography: Allsport, Joe Palos, Brett Kluznik, Matt Curtis, Michael Cronin

Publisher: Inside Soccer Pty Ltd
A.C.N. 088 107 822

Printing: Apex Printers Arncliffe NSW Tel: (02) 9597 6866
Distribution: Wrapaway, Marrickville NSW Tel: (02) 9550 1622

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POPPA POPPED OFF

I am off to an island somewhere to get some sun." That was Tony Popovic's reaction to Sydney's less than sunny summer. Yes, we know we said we would have 'Poppa' in this week's IS, but the big man just took off. But don't fret, Poppa san will be in next week.

TAKING YOUR CHANCES

It's good to see an ex-Karingal Soccer Club lad doing well. South's keeper Chris Jones thought he was going to be first choice after Mike Petkovic moved on. Enter Milan Udvaracz, the Hungarian keeper, who kept Jones out of the side until just before WCC 2000. Jones took his chance and now he is being courted by some Spanish clubs. It will be a big change of lifestyle should it happen. Jones trains early in the morning at South before going to work for AVCO during the day, then he returns to the club for more training. See interview next.

BILL TURNER CUP

Just a reminder that with school starting school that means more than just books - it means soccer with the Bill Turner Cup, Australia's biggest school soccer tournament. And IS - Australia's most popular weekly soccer paper - will bring you all the action and interviews. It's gonna be a big year for the Cup.

THE VERB 'DIOMIS'

No we are not anti-referees or Con Diomis, but it's our job to report what people are saying and doing. After reporting the comments of a number of respected NSL coaches, yet another has finished a Con Diomis game feeling less than impressed. Falcons' Welsh international coach Jeff Hopkins is not one for ranting and raving, so when he gets upset you tend to feel there is something in it. Hopkins was so incensed with one of Diomis' decisions in Perth recently that he screamed at his players not to shake the hand of Diomis after the game. Hopkins' language was, as you'd expect, vituperative. Gary Power, refs director, would be well advised to have a chat (if he hasn't already) to see what exactly is the story with the ref who referred to himself as 'The Boss'. The IS English Dictionary: Diomis (v): To frequently referee in a manner that causes blood to boil.

STINKY GLORY? NO WAY

Bernd Stange has a lovely turn of phrase. After the recent Glory v Falcons match he made this comment: "I think now we have a smell for the league." By the way, Glory's excellent site has about 4,000 hits per week. Meanwhile, last Sunday all the squad visited Perth Zoo for the Peters Glory Squad Zoo Party, just one of many promotions the players do. Wanna learn how to run a successful Soccer Club? Just buy a ticket to Perth.

FARINA MAKES COMEBACK!

Well, sort of. On Australia Day Northern Spirit will host a 'Former Soccerroo versus Former Rest of the

World' match as a curtain-raiser to the Carlton match. Skilled winger Joe Watson is also expected to front with our Soccerroo coach a possibility of playing. S-news would love to see Marshall Soper turn up, then there's Tommy Cumming, Steve O'Connor, Steve Blair, Oscar Crino, Alan Davidson, Duncan Cummings; ah the list just goes on.

KNIGHTS PLAY TONIGHT

Melbourne Knights play tonight against visiting Macedonian side Pobeda Prilip at 7.30 at Somers St. Knights' successful coaching clinics finish up on Jan 21. Call the club for more details on 93123584.

COAST FM IN ADELAIDE

Coast FM did the live broadcast of the Australia Cup deciding match - Matildas v USA - the only radio station to broadcast a women's international. Commentators were Margaret Bowden, Donald Campbell and SASI Women's coach Kevin McCormack. The broadcast was sponsored by Savings & Loans Credit Union (main sponsor), Adelaide Pest Control, Optus World Unley, AM Crash Repairs, Port Road Sports, IHK Services and Retail Solutions. And while we are in South Australia, another congratulations to Ann Marie Vozzo, 15, for winning the Women's Player of the Year.

MELBOURNE'S PRINT MEDIA

A quick precis of Melbourne's print media sees that in the Herald Sun they referred to the sides in the WCC not by their club names, but by the countries of origin. For example, at one point Brazil and Spain were top of their groups! And The Age shouldn't snigger. Their coverage of local soccer is pretty poor, in fact, the day after the Matildas win over the Czechs, it wasn't mentioned anyway, not even on their scoreboard! And we won!

POWER'S OPEN TRAINING SESSION

This morning Parra Power is holding an open training session at Ted Horwood Reserve in Baulkham Hills between 8am and 10am. There is a clinic between 10.30am and 11.30am. Their Olyroo stars will be there. And the Parra Council Coaching Clinic at Richie Benaud Oval (we're not joking!) will be on this Thursday and Friday between 1pm and 3.30pm. In other news, the club has a sports dietitian on board, and in a midweek friendly, they beat Blacktown City 3-2 at Gabbie Stadium.

THANK YOU GOODNIGHT

ABC soccer on Sunday came up 30 secs short of the final whistle at Wolves. Thankfully for them no-one scored, but what if?

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts go out to Norman Tome whose grandparents passed on during the week. Tome was a substitute for Olympic against Sydney United.

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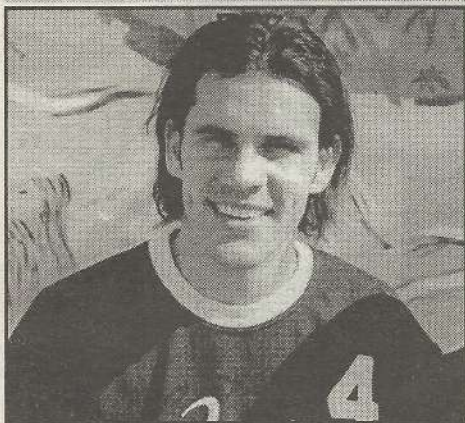
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MARCUS PHILLIPS

The Accidental Tourist



By Roger Sleeman

There have been moments in the last three NSL seasons when the thoughts of Marcus Phillips - Sydney Olympic's versatile twenty six-year-old midfielder - have strayed back to the memories of his professional career with Swindon Town.

At the tender age of sixteen, Phillips signed as an apprentice with the County Ground outfit and had high hopes of launching a successful long-term career in the English game under the watchful eye of Glenn Hoddle.

However, fate was to deliver a cruel blow to the ambitious youngster when he was involved in a major car accident in 1993 - a smash that cut short his stay at Swindon.

Forced to re-evaluate his career

prospects at the age of nineteen, Marcus Phillips spent one year at Utrecht in the Dutch League and six months with Oxford United before heeding the call from former clubmate at Swindon, David Mitchell, to try his luck in Australia with Sydney United.

In this interview with Roger Sleeman, Marcus Phillips discusses his life in football, his impressions of the Australian game and his plans for the future.

ROGER SLEEMAN

Would you be in Australia if your professional career had worked out more smoothly, and do you have any regrets?

MARCUS PHILLIPS

I suppose you can't always plan for the future because just before I had the car accident I'd been offered a one-year extension on my two-year contract with Swindon. I hadn't played a lot of first team

probably put paid to my future career ambitions.

If things had worked better for me I probably wouldn't be here but I've enjoyed playing in the NSL, so at this point in time I haven't any real regrets.

Ask me the same question in five years and I might answer differently.

R.S. Can you describe your experience playing under Glenn Hoddle?

M.P. The mere presence of the man elevated the club's status and his football skills were unbelievable. He could knock a ball 50-60

metres, almost put it on a sixpence and make the ball spin like a pro golfer.

I learned so much from him in both the technical and tactical facets of the game, which explains why I'm always offering coaches my opinion about the game!

R.S. What were your impressions of David Mitchell at Swindon?

M.P. Davie Mitchell was the complete professional and knowing how successful his career had been he became

'He could knock a ball fifty to sixty metres, almost put it on a sixpence and make the ball spin like a pro golfer.'

Marcus Phillips on ex-manager Glenn Hoddle

football but at least the club had me in their plans

In terms of professional football, the one-year lay off I had after the accident



Marcus Phillips, Sydney Olympic's tigerish midfielder. Dave Mitchell was one of his idols at Swindon Town.

one of my idols, somebody to look up to. I even had the "pleasure" of cleaning his boots as part of my daily duties as an apprentice.

This is one factor in the Australian game I can't accept. Young players come from the youth team into the senior side and think they're as good as the senior players in their first outing. In the UK you have to earn your spurs before you're entitled to gain respect.

R.S. Before you came to Australia, did you know much about the Australian game, and were your expectations fulfilled?

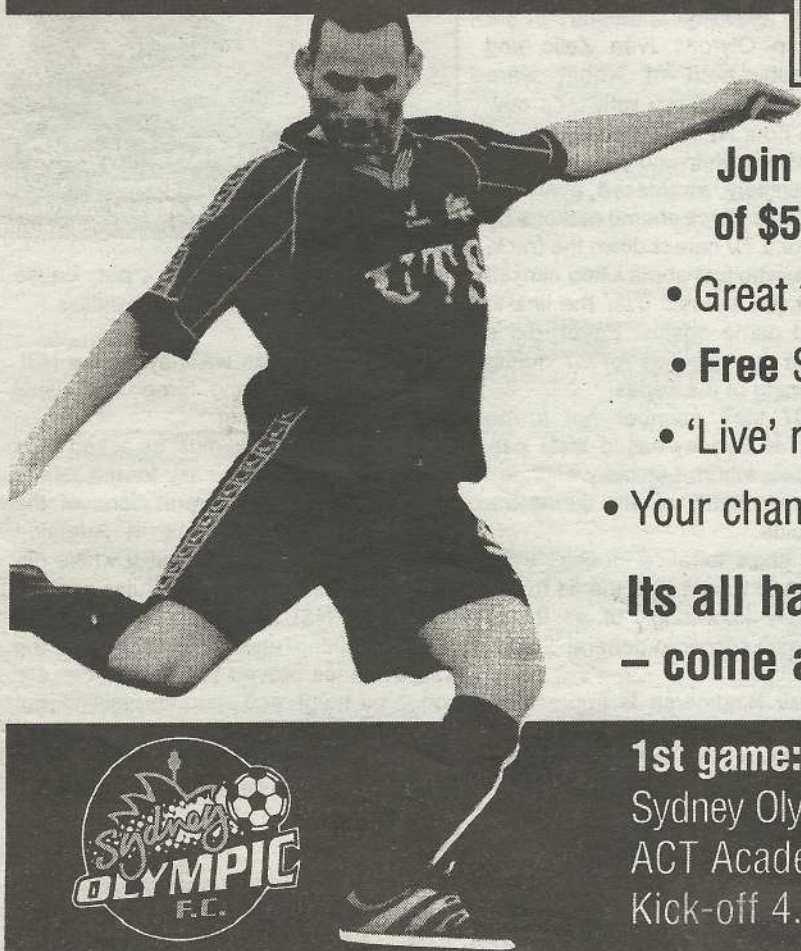
Continued on page 22

BELMORE SPORTS GROUND IS THE ONLY PLACE TO BE THIS SUNDAY!

Come and see current NSL League Leaders, UTS Sydney Olympic play NSL Champions South Melbourne (Back from taking on the world's best in Brazil).

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South Melbourne
Kick-off 6.30pm

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GREG BLAKE
C7 SOCCER COMMENTATOR
E-mail: gblake@primus.com.au



There truly is nothing like being there. Extensive and all as television coverage of the world game is these days, getting a first hand look at some of our overseas-based Olyroos in Adelaide last week was a timely reminder that watching footy on the box rarely does the code justice.

Back here in the antipodes we get glimpses of our wonderful Aussie exports on TV regularly.

But some of these young blokes have improved out of sight since leaving our shores and I felt just a little privileged to see the likes of little Nicky Rizzo lighting up the Hindmarsh Stadium once again.

Or maybe I'd just forgotten how good some of these young blokes really are.

Either way it certainly rams home the fact that our domestic competition is significantly weakened with the absences of Marco Bresciano, Lucas Neill, Jason Culina, Chris Coyne, Hayden Foxe, Tansel Baser and co.

It does the game here proud to be recognised as one of the most productive exporters of talent on the world market, but when the day comes that we can afford to keep these young guns at home the code will explode in this country.

The Four Nation Tournament in Adelaide delighted ex-pat fans from Egypt, Nigeria and Korea and cheer squads supporting each of these nations turned out in force for each of the three

series double-headers.

Koreans took the honours for the largest and loudest support group but one Korean fan provided some heart palpitations for local police when surveillance cameras at Hindmarsh Stadium spied him brandishing a four-foot long ceremonial sword.

When asked how he got the offending weapon into the ground the Korean supporter apparently explained that a security guard at the entrance gate had simply let him through.

Obviously relying on the honour system the security guard had merely asked if said fan intended on using the sword.

"No", said the Korean 'Zorro' wanna-be, and he was promptly admitted to the stadium.

It was terrific to catch up with a couple of familiar faces on the Aussie support staff during the Adelaide series.

Adrian Santrac, who appeared to relish his role with the Aussie boys, is one of nature's nice guys and by far one of the best coaches going around currently out of NSL ranks.

Should the NSL bid of Adelaide United get the nod in next season's revamped competition don't be surprised to see Santrac's name high on the new club's priority list.

And big ol' Claudio Canosa is doing much of the behind-the-scenes video work for the Aussies.

Canosa, who has only been out of NSL action for around 18 months, joked about his predilection for the physical aspects of the game and how his robust



Big ol' Claudio Canosa.



Nick Rizzo: the impressive Olyroo currently at Crystal Palace.

style would, the way the game is currently refereed, probably manage two or three games per season in between suspensions.

A gaggle of overseas journo's in SA for the pre-Olympics series probably still don't know how close they were to feeling the wrath of a full-blooded Canosa challenge.

The burly former Shark and Falcon had his video equipment positioned at the rear of the media area high in the Hindmarsh grandstand, but his view was consistently impeded by a couple of incredibly rude or remarkably stupid out-of-towners.

I spied big Claudio sharpening his elbows once or twice, but the once fearsome defender showed the type of admirable restraint he often lacked during his playing days - fortunately for said journo's, who certainly made no friends amongst the local media during the series.

A couple of television superstars in the making in Olyroos Ivan Zelic and Steve Laybutt, both of whom were involved in some capacity with C7's coverage of the Four Nation Tournament.

Zelic, whose groin injury kept him out the series entirely, impressed everyone and the Adelaide Force champ reckons he is shooting for a TV career down the track.

Laybutt, who just about killed himself trying to get the Aussies over the line in their second game against Egypt, did a terrific job on the sidelines for C7 during the final evening of the series.

One C7 staff member not to be messed with is Sydney-based stats person, Rebecca, whom I stupidly engaged in an NSL trivia battle of wits during the stay in Adelaide.

To say she's fanatical doesn't even come close and I must dips me lid to her for remarkable knowledge of all things NSL and Aussie soccer in general.

The re-built Hindmarsh is impressive, but even the locals are struggling to comprehend how the initial \$8 million costing ballooned out to some \$30 million to complete the extensions.

And two obvious flaws in that the floodlighting is still very much short of decent television standard and the media area (TV, radio and print combined) would struggle to accomodate Two Fat Ladies.

The media area is way short of what will be required for the huge number of foreign journo's who'll be in for the Olympic football series.

I must mention that some 76 people were arrested at the MCG in just one ugly night of crowd violence recently; the arrest total more than have seen the inside of a divvy van during the last four NSL grand finals combined.



Parra's Steve Laybutt. Together with Ivan Zelic could they be Soccer's TV stars of the future?

Just thought I'd point it out, 'cause they'll never tell you that in the dailies.

Just for a change we'll lay off the NSL refs this week and forego the usual 'Hanging Judge' count.

But the question must be asked as to why it was so darned easy for the refs to allow such liberal interpretations of the current FIFA regulations in Adelaide series, when it appears that a whole different set of (much harsher) rules apply to the weekly NSL matches.

If nothing else the handling of the Olyroo series proved that games can still tough be tough and uncompromising, but nothing got out of hand, thanks to superb jobs from all of our local whistlemen.

More of the same, please.

MELBOURNE SPORTS BOOKS

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NICK BOSEVSKI

Takes Melissa inside the Sydney United dressing room!

When Inside Soccer's Melissa Muscat recently happened upon the work phone number of Sydney United striker Nick Bosevski, she discovered he is a sales assistant at the trendy Marcs city store in Sydney.

This 'style master' informed us of the hip and happening places around town and gave Melissa the gossip on his teammates at Sydney United on the eve of their clash with Wollongong Wolves.

Favourite night spot: The Embassy

(Double Bay)

Favourite café: Zippos (South Hurstville)

Favourite beach: Bondi

Favourite shopping spot: Paddington

Favourite sporting venue: Sydney Football Stadium

... now we get personal...

Funniest team-mate: Ante Deak

Quote of the season: When are we going to win our next game?

Who has the most unusual occu-

pation or hobby outside of soccer and what is it? Mickey Jurilj - he doesn't work!

Who has ever had the most head-turning hairstyle and what was it? Steven Bozinovski - he came to training one day with his hair spiky and bleached blonde. He looked like a cactus.

Who's the worst singer? Me!

Who is the most musically talented? Vince Savocca

Who has the most unusual article of clothing and what it is? Mario Jermen wears these ¾ pants to training - they're tracksuit pants which he cuts himself.

Which of your team-mates is the most successful with women? Ray Younis

Who is the most romantic team-mate? Eddie Bosnar and Tom Pondeljak

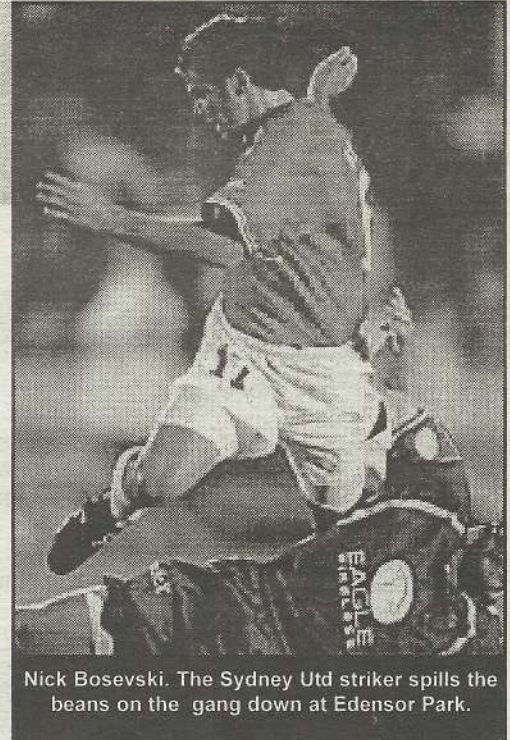
What is the best excuse you've heard this season for someone not training? After the 3-0 loss to Northern Spirit, David Ratcliffe warned us that we were going to do some hard training; Joe Moric said that he had been throwing up so he didn't have to train.

Which team-mate is most likely to get hooked on daytime soaps? Three quarters of the team!

Who's got the brains of the team? Ray Younis

Which player can consume the most alcohol? That's easy - Kane Rastall and Mark Racker.

Which team-mate is most likely to spend his winning bonus at the casino?



Nick Bosevski. The Sydney Utd striker spills the beans on the gang down at Edensor Park.



According to Bosevski Ray Younis (above) is the Sydney United player with the most brains and most likely to wear a dress!



Mickey Jurilj: most likely to spend his winning bonus at the casino.

no? Mickey Jurilj.

Who would be most likely to get their nose, tongue or eyebrow pierced? Steven Bozinovski.

Which of your team-mates would we most likely see strutting his stuff on the catwalk? Nahuel Arrarte.

Who would most likely wear a dress in public? Ray Younis.

Which two Pumas are inseparable and what's the craziest thing they've done together? Steve Tolios and Steve Bozinovski - they're just always together! (Let's just hope Steve Tolios stays away from the body piercing and hair dye!)

*Sydney United plays Wollongong Wolves this weekend. See match preview on page 12 and United's home game against Olympic last weekend is on page 16.

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BERRIES TOO GOOD FOR 10-MAN PENRITH

CANTERBURY M'VILLE 3

Mendes 12, Wells 32, Markopoulos 46

PENRITH PANTHERS 1

Thomas 80

Sunday night at Henson Park, Marrickville, Sydney.



By Ben Cubby

Fortune favoured Canterbury-Marrickville at Henson Park on Sunday as they defeated the ten-man Penrith Panthers by three goals to one.

A flukey goal by Jose Mendes gave the Berries an early lead, and the dismissal of Penrith defender Ben Wright in the first half put the match beyond the visitors' reach.

The Panthers looked the more threatening side early on, forcing a series of corners inside the first three minutes.

New Canterbury 'keeper Frank Mikuletic looked a little shaky under the high ball, though he did well to block long range shots from Danny Hinton and Richard Astone.

Mendes' 12th minute strike was

somewhat against the run of play. He received the ball wide on the right, about 30 yards out, and sent a speculative shot sailing towards the goal.

Panthers glove-man Luke Martin appeared to have it covered, but the ball took a wicked bounce on the bumpy surface and flew past him into the net.

It was Mikuletic's turn to be embarrassed a few minutes later when he handled a back pass and conceded an indirect free-kick 7 yards out from goal.

A mass of Canterbury defenders managed to charge down the shot, but they continued to live dangerously until Wright's send-off in the 31st minute.

The diminutive sweeper was red-carded by referee Vic Gauci for bringing down a Berries player when he was the last man between ball and goal.

From the resulting free kick, Canterbury youngster Joe Ferraro deflected a powerful Scott Wells drive past the luckless Martin to make the score 2-0.

Angelo Markopoulos finished off an eye-catching interchange of passes to notch his team's third goal moments after half time.

At this point, the Berries seemed likely to rack up a huge score against their opponents, but the Panthers dug in their heels and stubbornly refused to go any further behind.

As so often happens, the side with fewer players lifted as the team with the full complement eased off.

Penrith's Greg Thomas fired into the side netting after 58 minutes and his colleague Bob Casserley rattled the post shortly afterwards.

Thomas nabbed a consolation goal ten minutes from time, slotting home a low cross from Chris Ackerly.

Zoran Ilic - one of Canterbury's best in this match - and Steve Christoforidis had goal-bound efforts well saved by Martin in the dying stages of this open, entertaining game.

After the match, Penrith officials questioned the red card decision, stressing that the Canterbury player was barely in a goal-scoring position when the foul took place.

The feeling within the Penrith camp is that the side is adjusting well to the Super League competition and will improve as the season goes on.

The form of striker Danny Hinton and midfielders Ackerley and Casserley in this encounter suggests that the Panthers may surprise a few of the other teams in the league this year.

For the Berries, captain Matt Percy stood out, along with Ilic and the skillful Mendes. Joe Ferraro - a member of last season's successful Canterbury Under-18 lineup - also had a fine match in his wide midfield role.

Canterbury's affable coach John Xipolitis admitted that an ounce of luck had helped his team win this one, saying, "we need luck...everybody who wins needs luck".

"We had Jim Nikas, Adrian Molashino and Simon Fedeles missing today. Young players like Terry Sidiratos and Joe Ferraro came in and did well, so I'm very happy".

Meanwhile the Premiers Blacktown began their home campaign with a shock 1-0 home loss to Bankstown Lions.

The winning goal came in controversial circumstances, with Kire

MATCH STATS

CANTERBURY: Mikuletic, Raeburn, Percy, Ilic, Mendes, Wells, Christoforidis, Markopoulos, Sidiratos, Ferraro (Kotsopoulos 65), Galloway.

PENRITH: Martin, Radic (Buckpitt 63), Diene, Tehliwec (Lewis 68), Wright (sent off 31), Thomas, Casserley, Ackerly, Hinton, Astone (Collins 60), Picken.

Referee: Vic Gauci.

Grozdanovski looking offside when played through. He was then brought down by Fernando Greco - who was promptly red-carded for this.

Lions' keeper Zlatko Josevski then 'did a Chilavert' by stepping up to score past City's sub keeper Nathan Reid.

Peter Smith reports that Fairfield Bulls came to Seymour Shaw looking for a victory to get their season back on track after a home defeat against Central Coast in the first round, and for much of the match it looked like they would do just that.

Fairfield had much the better of the first half but failed to convert several opportunities until the 38th minute when Matthew Borg scored with a free header directly from a corner.

The second half saw the Sharks continue to battle hard and they forced their way back into the game, holding possession for longer periods. When Matt Merralls hit the outside of the post mid way through the second half it was a sign of the game's changing tide.

The turning point came in the 78th minute. Picking up a half-cleared corner on the edge of box Clint Harrod's first time volley was unstoppable.

Three minutes later Craig Hobbs was adjudged to have been brought down in the box; Bulls' Phil Treharne was dismissed for his protestations. Hobbs dusted himself down and duly converted.

Jimmy Corbo rounded off the scoring in the dying minutes of the match for Sutherland to record a famous 3-1 victory.

SUPER LEAGUE TABLE AFTER ROUND 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
LEIGHHARDT TIGERS	2	2	0	0	9	4	6	5
Canterbury Marrickville	2	2	0	0	6	2	6	4
Central Coast Coasties	2	2	0	0	5	1	6	4
Macarthur Rams	2	1	1	0	3	1	4	2
Bankstown City Lions	2	1	1	0	1	0	4	1
Blacktown City Demons	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	0
St George Saints	2	1	0	1	2	2	3	0
Sutherland Sharks	2	1	0	1	5	7	3	-2
Parramatta Eagles	2	0	2	0	2	2	2	0
Manly Warringah Dolphins	2	0	1	1	3	5	1	-2
Penrith Panthers	2	0	1	1	2	4	1	-2
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	2	0	0	2	2	5	0	-3
Eastern Suburbs	2	0	0	2	1	4	0	-3
Fairfield Bulls	2	0	0	2	2	6	0	-4

SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS: ROUND 2

Macarthur Rams 2 St George 0, Blacktown City 0 Bankstown Lions 1, Bonnyrigg 2 Leighardt Tigers 3, Sutherland Sharks 3 Fairfield Bulls 1, Parramatta Eagles 2 Manly Warringah Dolphins 2, Eastern Suburbs 0 Central Coast 2, Canterbury Marrickville 3 Penrith Panthers 1.



NSW SOCCER FEDERATION
SUPER LEAGUE 2000

NEXT HOME GAME

PENRITH PANTHERS **V** **PARRAMATTA EAGLES**

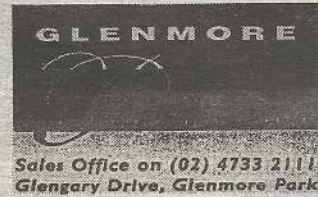
VENUE:

NEPEAN RUGBY PARK
ANDREWS ROAD, PENRITH

TIME:

SATURDAY 22 January 2000
U/18s: 3.00 PM
U/21s: 5.00 PM
First Grade: 7.00 PM

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Super League



Wednesday 19 January

St George v Canterbury Marrickville, St George Stadium
4.00pm (18s)

Friday 21 January

St George v Canterbury Marrickville, St George Stadium
8.00pm 6.00pm (21s)

Saturday 22 January

Fairfield Bulls v Leighardt Tigers, Nineveh Field
7.00pm 5.00pm (21s) 3.00pm (18s)

Penrith v Parramatta Eagles, Andrews Road Field
7.00pm 5.00pm (21s) 3.00pm (18s)

Manly Warringah v Blacktown, Cromer Park
6.00pm 4.00pm (21s)

Bonnyrigg v Macarthur Rams, Serbian Centre
7.00pm 5.00pm (21s) 3.00pm (18s)

Bankstown v Central Coast, Jensen Park
5.00pm (18s)

Eastern Suburbs v Sutherland, David Phillips Field
5.00pm (18s)

Sunday 23 January

Manly Warringah v Blacktown, Cromer Park
5.00pm (18s)

Bankstown v Central Coast, Jensen Park
6.00pm 4.00pm (21s)

Eastern Suburbs v Sutherland, David Phillips Field
6.00pm 4.00pm (21s)

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Mac Rams bring Saints back to earth



MACARTHUR RAMS 2

Attard 5, Williams 56

ST GEORGE 0

Saturday night at Macquarie Fields. Crowd 300.



By Stuart Jones

After last week's first up win for St George Saints hopes were high for the ambitious club from Sydney's south. However, on Saturday evening Macarthur notched up their first win of the season with a 2-0 second round home win over St George.

Prior to the game Saints coach John Sentas was concerned about the state of the pitch at Macquarie Fields (where the game had been moved to) and described the surface as a great evener.

The Rams started the stronger and in the fifth minute they went a goal ahead after a mazy run from Garry Attard was finished with a low shot into the corner of the net.

St George just seemed to watch him advance.

The Saints did not record one single shot on target in the first-half while Macarthur had two chances cleared off the line.

The first came from an Eric Williams shot - Stacey Alogdellis in the Saints goal could only parry the ball, which spun back towards the goal yet the Saints keeper just scooped it out before it went over the line.

Then, seven minutes before half-time, Attard shot low and saw the ball slowly creep along the goal line only for it to be kicked clear at

the last moment by a desperate St George defence.

In fact, their defence was what had kept the Saints in it with some great last ditch tackles, Simon Verrender in particular.

Macarthur once more went on the attack in the second half with Chad Bishop (lately of Wolves) now playing a less prominent role, leaving it to players like Martin Bourke to step up.

In the 56th minute Richard Lloyd won the ball off Saints' little striker Jim Bakis and played it to Attard on the left, who flicked the ball past an opponent and played it infield to Bourke. He directed a great ball through to Eric Williams who made it 2-0 for the Rams.

All of a sudden St George was a different side and came out and threw men forward.

Although they had few opportunities the lead-up play was tremendous. In the end though it was a case of too little too late for them.

Brian Dene, the coach of Macarthur, was ecstatic with the win.

"All three grades won today and all played tremendous football. At the moment I am looking to build team spirit into the side and not to peak too early.

"I like how no-one is talking about us, it means we can go on with the job of playing well. Our back three was tremendous and young Graeme Goodfellow had a great game. I am glad the youngsters are getting a chance.

"Things are looking okay at the moment for the club," said the talented young coach who stepped up late last year and has acquitted himself admirably.

NSW Super League Round 2 summary



In other Super League matches from Round Two there were a couple of shocks for home teams once again, with the biggest being for Parramatta Eagles who surrendered a 2-0 lead to be held 2-2 by promoted Manly-Warringah Dolphins.

It was always a tight contest at Melita Stadium, but after establishing an early lead through Tony Mittega and then extending it with a Nikolce Joseski goal, it was something of a surprise when first Martin Ranaldi and then Andre Glucina got the Northern Beaches side back in the game.

Parramatta have begun modestly, with two draws, but Canterbury and Central Coast have won both their opening games, the Coasties getting up 2-0 at Easts in the 6 o'clock game.

Both goals coming in the second half after Jim Aschner had been sent-off shortly before the break.

The Berries cruised to a 3-1 win over Penrith Panthers (see report on page six).

Leichhardt Tigers share the lead with Canterbury and Central Coast after two rounds, with the

Tigers' nine goals giving them a distinct advantage already.

At Seymour Shaw in Sutherland, the Sharks had a blistering second half performance, scoring three times to nullify Fairfield Bulls' first half goal.

Harrod, Hobbs, from a penalty, and Corbo all got on the score-sheet for the home side, with Borg scoring for the visitors.

The form side of the league

so far is Leichhardt Tigers, who have ex-Sydney Olympic striker Steve Karavatakis heading the top scorers' tally with three.

On two goals is former Marconi player Michael Galluzzo, nippy Jim Bakis of St George, Zoran Ilic from Canterbury Marrickville, Eric Williams of the Macarthur Rams and Central Coast's Paul Roberts.

This weekend the visit of Blacktown to Manly Warringah should be well worth seeing - the Premiers, stung by a first up home loss to Bankstown, will be looking to atone, while the western derby between Penrith Panthers and Parramatta Eagles should have plenty of bite.

Game details on page six.



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Well-prepared Koreans show us a thing or two

AUSTRALIA 0 SOUTH KOREA 3

The Olyroo Challenge

Seol Ki-Hyeon 14, Park Ji-Sung 42, Lee Dong Gook 45
Saturday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide. Crowd: 6,000

MATCH STATS:

AUSTRALIA

J Didulica (gk), C Coyne E Bosnar, H Foxe, TBaser (45 J Burns), M Bresciano, B Emerton (capt), D Allsopp (89 C Zane) 79, N Rizzo (45 J Culina), K Wehrman, L Neill (84 M Sterjovski)

SOUTH KOREA

Park Ji-Sung, Park Jae-Hong, Park Jin-Sub, Sim Jae-Won (63 Cho Se-Kwon), Kim Do-Kyun, Seol Ki-Hyeon (76 Jang Sang-Won), Lee Young-Pyo, Kim Yong-Dae (gk), Park Dong-Hyuk, Lee Dong Gook (66 Choi Cui-Woo), Lee Kwan-Woo (63 Na Hee-Keun)

Referee: Eddie Lennie

Crowd: 6000 (approximately)

Yellow Cards

Korea: Park Jae-Hong, Nee Hee-Keun, Park Ji-Sung 3

Australia: Hayden Foxe, Lucas Neill, Kasey Wehrman

Best Players

KOREA

Lee Kwan-Woo, Kim Do-Kyun, Park Jin-Sub

AUSTRALIA

Foxe, Didulica, Neill

By Sue Howlett and Donald Campbell OAM

This was always going to be the match of the tournament. With two wins apiece, each team was seeking the pièce de résistance with the final win. Both teams enjoyed the more pleasant temperature, low, 20s for this match. The breeze was coming from the south and the pitch again looked as smooth as a billiard table, a credit to the staff at Hindmarsh Stadium.

The Korean players were delighted to have an enthusiastic cheer squad of nearly 200 people who kept up the drums,

chants and gongs all night.

Played in front of a disappointing crowd of just over 6000, the game promised to be entertaining from the first kick. Korea immediately put into motion the features which had been so obvious in each of their matches. They were incredibly quick to the ball and on the turn and won more of the high balls. They chased everything. They went to the ball, rather than waiting for it. They attacked in numbers and were always poised to pounce on any loose passes.

And the visitors' passing was hard, direct and accurate. Australia looked slow in comparison. In the second minute of the match Hayden Foxe fell heavily onto his shoulder when a short pass from the Australian keeper went astray.

Even at this early stage a Korean player was ready to pounce on the ball. Attacks came from Lee Kwan-Woo and Park Ji-Sung who shot into the side of goal within the first five minutes.

Soon afterwards Korea looked menacing as a move involving Nee Hee-Keun and Lee Kwan-Woo led to a corner. This was taken by Na Hee-Keun who got the ball over.

The header resulted again in Didulica doing well to turn the ball around the post. Just after ten minutes a good Australian move came to nothing when Bresciano was dispossessed of the ball by his opponent. Korea made good use of their advantage as Park Ji-Sung moved like lightning down the right, crossed fast and accurately to Seol Ki-Hyeon who scored neatly under the keeper's body from 12 metres at the 14 minute mark.

Australia settled a little and Kasey Wehrman was awarded a free close to goals. Foxe took the shot which went straight into the wall and out. Wehrman put pressure on himself and his team when he was booked for dissent in the 21st minute, as had occurred in the previous match.

Korean shots continued to come in monotonous regularity. In the 31st minute a foul by Lucas Neill, created another

opportunity for the Koreans. Lee Kwan-Woo drove the ball in low and hard but it was well caught by the keeper.

Another foul by Foxe, who tackled late and high, gave yet another opportunity for the Korean team.

The inevitable happened in the 42nd minute when the Australian defence left itself wide open. Lee Kwan-Woo moved around three players and slipped the ball in past the keeper who had absolutely no chance.

A minute later Bresciano replied with a powerful drive from 20m which was unsuccessful.

Two minutes into extra time, Park Jin-Sub passed across to the impressive Lee Dong Gook who snaffled the goal on the whistle for the end of the half.

The Koreans were in superb touch. Their speed to the ball gave them time to show their skill and ensure accuracy. The Australians seemed to be rushing moves and were given no time at all by the Koreans whose movement on and off the ball was excellent. They refused to allow the Australians to build from the back.

At the start of the second half Tansel Baser and Nick Rizzo were replaced by Jason Culina and Jacob Burns. Rizzo in particular never got going in the match and was checked tightly by his opponents.

Yet another yellow card in this tournament came for diving. The culprit on this occasion was Na Hee-Keun. Foxe was also yellow carded for a crude and reckless challenge on Seol Ki-Hyeon and Park Jae-Hong received his for a very rough tackle.

Australia was showing a lot of determination with an accurate pass by Bresciano to Brett Emerton in the 53rd minute. Once again holding the ball for a second too long was costly for the Australians.

Lee Dong Gook was also causing problems moving quickly down the right and forcing a brave save by the keeper who had to come right out to the edge of the area.



The Olyroos' impressive defender Hayden Foxe. He scored against Egypt, see match report bottom of page.

In the 62nd minute the ball was put across well by Wehrman to Daniel Allsopp who had a good opportunity close to goals, but he failed to convert.

Minutes later Neill had a great run, setting up Emerton who shot from the edge of the box, but his shot went over the bar.

Culina - from Ajax Amsterdam - too made a great move in the 75th minute but he was left with nowhere to go by the Korean defence.

By the 75th minute all three of the Korean goal scorers had been replaced with little noticeable change in play, while the Olyroos continued to push forward, with Wehrman moving the ball to Allsopp who shot accurately but softly - the keeper easily took it.

A minute later the Korean keeper was forced out of his area but the Australians were unable to capitalise on this momentary lapse.

In the 84th minute a stunning Australian save ensured that there was no addition to the score when Lee Young-Pyo moved through four players, twisting and weaving but to no avail.

In the end a fully deserved 3-0 win against Australia, a side that just can't seem to beat the impressive Asian side.

Olyroos edge out tough ten-man Egypt

AUSTRALIA 1

Foxe 77

EGYPT 0

Wednesday night at Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide.

The Olyroo Challenge

By Sue Howlett and Donald Campbell OAM

Raul Blanco made three changes for the Olyroo's second game against Egypt. Vince Grella came into the team as the midfield general in place of Kasey Wehrman and the late arriving Lucas Neill started the game instead of Jason Culina. The third change was the introduction of Peter Zois as 'keeper, replacing Joe Didulica.

The Aussies had an opening very early on when a free kick from the left, barely thirty seconds into the game, saw

Steven Laybutt's header thunder against the cross bar.

The first half was a rugged and physical battle played in very hot conditions with

neither team able to maintain possession for long periods because of aggressive marking and fearless tackling. There were four yellow cards dished out in the first half, a appropriate indication of the ferocity of the game, particularly on the part of the visitors.

The second half saw the introduction of Wehrman and he made a difference to the composure of the team and was instrumental for some good early moves in the second half.

By the middle of the second half the game had really come alive with the ball

was moving from end to end.

In the 76th minute Said Abdel Aziz received his second yellow card for a deliberate trip and was dismissed by the referee.

From the resulting free-kick Wehrman put over superb cross to Hayden Foxe who rose, unmarked, in the box in the front of the advancing 'keeper and headed the ball into the back of the net to put the Australians ahead 1-0.

The Olyroos were unlucky not to go further ahead in the 87th minute when a free taken just outside the penalty area was headed, again, by Laybutt. It cannoned into the underside of the bar and came straight back out. The referee ruled that it had not crossed the line but replays later put into question the referee's decision.

AUSTRALIA

P Zois (gk), L Neill, C Coyne (E Bosnar 28), H Foxe, S Laybutt, TBaser, M Bresciano, V Grella, B Emerton (capt), D Allsopp (C Zane) 79, N Rizzo (K Wehrman 45)

EGYPT

A Amir (gk), R Adel (A Ahmad 90), S A Mohamed, H Saied, A Said, Z Mohamed, B Ahmed, M Sayed (A Mohamed 83), R Abdulla (E Tarek 72), G El Khatub, S Ramy

Yellow Cards

Egypt: A Ramy 18, G El Khatub 35
Australia: L Neill 46, K Wehrman 67

Red Cards

Egypt: A Said 77

Referee: Simon Micallef

Crowd: 4000



ANISSA TANN-DARBY

'For Matildas, Australia Cup was valuable'



AWSA CEO Warren Fisher and President Shirley Brown. They are bringing more games to Australia, with Nigeria coming in March 2000.

By Matildas star
Anissa Tann-Darby

A few hours after our recent Australia Cup series I was asked whether the millions of dollars of AIS funding had been worth it given our defeats by Sweden and USA. The answer is very simply ... YES.

For if we had not had that funding - which allows us to train at the AIS - we would certainly not have been as competitive in the series.

The women's game is booming all over the world. The majority of the football playing nations are taking the

game serious, add the fact they have massive population bases and we are doing well to stay so competitive.

The problems we faced 10 years ago are the same ones now faced by the Czech Republic - while here they spent many hours trying to examine how our administrative and coaching structure works.

I made my international debut in 1988 and was part of the first Australian team to ever beat Brazil in a FIFA match at any level.

Since then Brazilian football has taken their sisters seriously and they are now ranked third in the world.

The USA is the classic example. Despite their senior players not coming to this tournament, they sent a highly exciting, aggressive and ambitious squad which won the Cup and showed the depth of the game.

Before anybody decries this move, isn't it what Australia is doing for the Socceroo series in Chile in February,

lished nations' are progressing at an incredible rate.

To survive we have to keep playing these nations and keep investing in the game.

The Australia Cup allowed us to get excellent tournament preparation; exactly as it will be in the Olympics.

Coach Chris Tanzey tried to replicate the living and training conditions that we can expect in the Olympics and so we had to overcome all the unique features of this.

This included us being isolated from fans and family as that is what will be happening in the Olympics.

A bit of a culture shock but realistic preparation. We had to undergo all the correct preparation procedures and even more so, recovery procedures.

In fact quite a few NSL sides don't use recovery methods and in this case we are ahead of the men in some ways.

The playing conditions for the series were excellent and we played on North Sydney Oval, Bob Jane Stadium and the new Hindmarsh stadium.

In fact it was the first time women had played on North Sydney and the first women's International at Hindmarsh - it was a pleasure to play on these stadiums.

All three surfaces were fast and of a great quality.

'THE WOMEN'S GAME IS BOOMING ALL OVER THE WORLD ... WE ARE DOING WELL TO STAY SO COMPETITIVE.'

albeit for different reasons?

More and more nations are starting to play the women's game and the estab-



The crowds are coming to these games as well, obviously there was the "calendar factor" but as long as the fans come to the game it is our job to keep them entertained with good winning foot-



The Spirit fans loved seeing the Matildas. All pics by Joe Palos.

ball.

We may have lost two (Sweden 0-2 and USA 1-3) and beat the Czechs 3-0, but the series was a great learning experience, especially for the younger players.

The Australia Cup also saw Sunni Hughes - Australia's all-time scoring great - make her 50th A appearance.

Power Surge in 2000



Parramatta Power V Gippsland Falcons

Saturday 22 January
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Youth League Match 5.30pm
NSL Match 7.30pm



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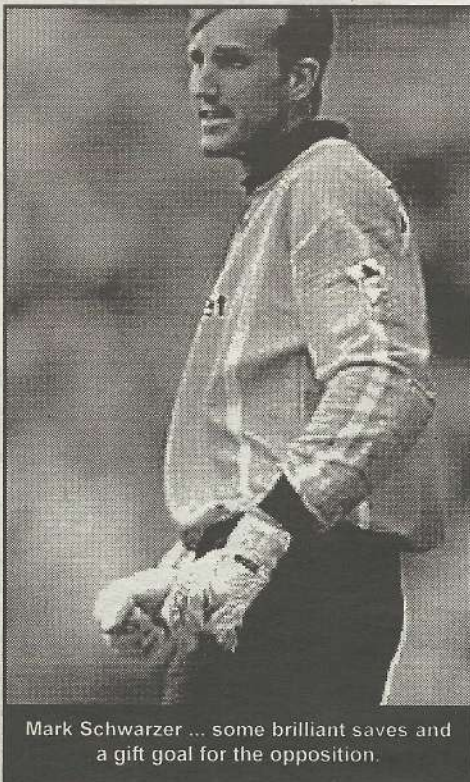
• Tickets available from all Ticketek outlets including

Parramatta Leagues Club and at the ground • \$40 Family ticket available

• Free bus shuttle service from Parramatta Station from 5.30pm

AUSSIES on the world stage

A round-up of how our Aussies players fared abroad this last week ...



Mark Schwarzer ... some brilliant saves and a gift goal for the opposition.

The main focus for the Aussies Abroad this week was in the English Nationwide First Division where a number of our exports are playing for teams striving to avoid relegation to the Second Division.

Most likely already doomed is Frank Talia's Swindon team who are in dead last position five points behind the team above them, having won only three of its twenty seven games. Talia was between the posts as his team suffered another defeat, this time at the hands of title chasing Ipswich who have snuck up to be only four points behind leaders Charlton. Ipswich beat the visiting team to the tune of three goals to nil.

Just above Swindon is Portsmouth, once under the managership of Terry Venables and home to Aussies Mike Panopoulos and Andy Petterson. The strugglers were visited by Wolverhampton Wanderers who are inching their way towards a play-off spot.

The Wolves with Aussie Kevin Muscat playing a full game and Steve Corica remaining on the bench won 2-3

JOHNSON SCORES AS MANY AUSSIES STRUGGLE

with a last minute goal. Muscat was again involved in a controversial incident in a spiteful match in which the referee had to restore calm on several occasions. But on this occasion Muscat was the victim, not the transgressor, of an appalling tackle by substitute Scott Hiley less than 30 seconds after he came on to the pitch.

Both Petterson, who hasn't featured in many games recently, and Panopoulos started the game with the latter being replaced in the 64th minute.

Wolverhampton played earlier in the week when it lost 2-3 at home to Charlton - Muscat played the whole game while Corica came on in the 70th minute.

The win on the weekend put the Wolves in 10th spot but only two points from the play off position.

Not far above the two bottom clubs are Crewe Alexander and West Bromwich Albion both featuring Australians.

Crewe have had a mini-revival recently dragging themselves away from the bottom three but faced leaders Charlton on the weekend. With Aussie Jason Kearton in goals Crewe succumbed 1-0 at home. Kearton was not to blame for the goal and kept his team in the game with some fine saves including an acrobatic dive in the first half.

West Bromwich who have Jason Van Blerk and Andrew McDermott on their list played fellow strugglers Port Vale and befitting such a clash the game ended in a scoreless draw.

The Aussie contingent didn't fare well with Van Blerk coming on in the 77th minute and McDermott not taking part in the game at all.

Shaun Murphy's team Sheffield United are hovering around mid table and on the weekend suffered their first defeat since a change in managers. Having gone unbeaten for six games United lost 2-1 away to Wallsall. Although a much sharp-

er Sheffield totally dominated the first half Wallsall came back to score two goals in the second half and claim the two important points. Though on the losing team Murphy was adjudged to be the outstanding defender in the match.

Injury prone Craig Foster's team, Crystal Palace, are one point in front of Sheffield and they lost on the weekend. A 0-2 home loss to Barnsley does them no good as they strive to make themselves safe from the relegation threat. Foster, returning from another injury, came on the 80th minute. Nick Rizzo, another Aussie on the books of Palace, was strutting his stuff in the heat of Adelaide for the Olyroos as they went down to Korea.

Another Aussie with a team challenging for the Premier League play-off spots is Stan Lazaridis whose team Birmingham is lingering close to the sought after position in eleventh spot but only three points from the magical sixth placed team Stockport.

Birmingham beat arch rivals Norwich 2-0 to consolidate their position with Lazaridis coming on in the 86th minute and making a favourable impression in the short time and almost beat the Norwich 'keeper with a low drive soon after he came on.

The quiet achiever in the First Division has been Queens Park Rangers who have the same number of points as Wolverhampton with a better goal difference. They lost 1-0 at home to Bolton with Aussie George Kulscar, fully recovered from his meningitis scare, starting the game but being replaced in the 68th minute.

Nevertheless, they are only two points away from the play off position in ninth place.

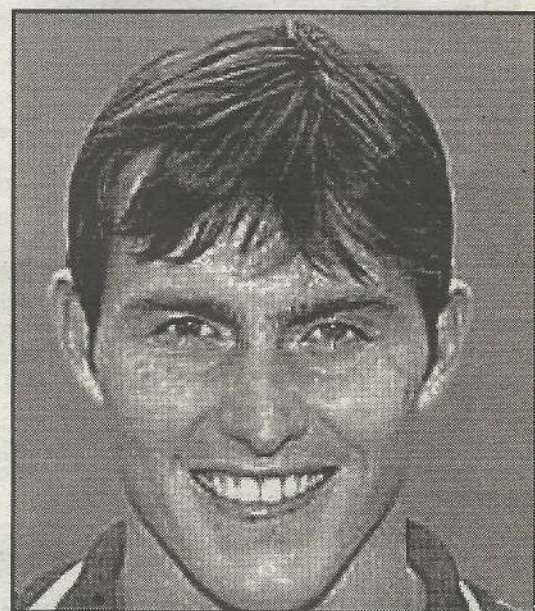
An Aussie who has had a topsy-turvy weekend is John Filan who finally made his return, after a disagreement with the new manager, to the improving Blackburn. Filan's return was soured in the 2-0 Blackburn win over Huddersfield when he took a knock and had to be replaced in the 30th minute.

Blackburn is in seventh spot, one point behind the play off position, and has been in great form since Tony Parkes took over as manager a few weeks ago.

The highest placed team in the Nationwide Division One containing an Australian is Manchester City who until Charlton's recent hot run were the leaders. They are currently in second spot and on the weekend they beat Fullham 4-0 with Aussie Danny Tiatto coming on in the 75th minute.

In the second division Aussie Andrew Bernal played a full game in Reading's 0-0 draw at home to Cambridge United as they struggle to stay above the relegation zone in fourth last position.

Tim Cahill, still trying to confirm his eligibility to play for Australia, played a full game as his team Millwall continued its challenge for the top position with a 1-1 away draw at Wigan, the division leaders.



Another goal to Richard Johnson for his struggling Premier League Watford team.

Millwall, for whom regular Lucas Neill was also in Adelaide, is in fourth spot only five points away from the automatically promoted second position and seven points from the lead.

In the Premier League with Mark Bosnich's Manchester United and Harry Kewell's Leeds United having a rest this weekend the only Aussies featured in the weekend action were Watford's Richard Johnson and Middlesbrough's Mark Schwarzer.

Johnson had a successful weekend personally when he scored another ripper from all of 25 yards but the visitors, Liverpool, went away smiling after a 2-3 win.

Johnson was replaced in the 88th minute and his team seems doomed, sitting in second last spot four points from its nearest competitor, Bradford, and six points below the safety zone.

Schwarzer's team was walloped 1-4 at home to Derby with the Aussie 'keeper having an indifferent game - he made a number of excellent saves but came up with an awful error as well. Schwarzer collected a back pass and attempted a side-foot clearance but found Derby's Malcolm Christie who put away the opportunity without any difficulty for one of Derby's goals.

Premier League's other Aussie Coventry's John Aloisi was still recovering from long term injury as his team had a 2-0 home win over Wimbledon to consolidate their mid table position.

Over in Scotland Celtic used the winter hiatus to make improvements to its performance with a training game against Germany's Fortuna Dusseldorf and came away with a 3-0 win. Aussie Mark Viduka scored the third goal with a superb finish and had an excellent all round game.

Paul Okon thought his season had been turned around when he started the game and played well in a mid week game one week ago. But two games on he is resigned to being only a peripheral member of Fiorentina's Serie A campaign as he has remained on the bench in both games.

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Matildas' first victory of new millennium

By Alan Clark

The Matildas left it until the last half-hour of their second Australia Cup match against the Czech Republic before pressure told on the tiring visitors, running out eventually to a comfortable 3-0 victory. Two goals in a minute turned the game and sent the Czechs reeling.

Anissa Tann-Darby opened the scoring from just outside the penalty-area with a well-taken free kick which cleared the wall and hit the top corner of the net 59 minutes in.

Before the Czechs could refocus, the Matildas had netted again. Julie Murray, only on the park for four minutes as a substitute for the lively Sunni Hughes, was gifted a goal by a poor goalkeeping clearance falling to her with the goal yawning. Murray (pictured) correctly did her geometry, getting the angle exactly right to send the ball past the despairing goalkeeper and in off the far post.

Five minutes from time came the inevitable third. In what was the best-crafted goal of the night, Danielle Small won a ball in midfield and sent a perfect through-ball to Sharon Black whose well-judged near post shot was unstoppable.

The Czechs had made things difficult for themselves as defender Marie Tlachova was dismissed midway through the first half after referee Tammy Ogston showed her a yellow card for the second time, a mere eight minutes after her first, both for bad tackles.

The Matildas still needed to work as hard against ten as they had against eleven. Despite the hot conditions which would not be familiar to the Czechs, they continued to hold their own in the midfield which was the main battleground site.

Dagmar Cilova was selected in goal as a replacement for Zuzana Pincova. Pincova had the misfortune to play in the opening game three days earlier against a rampant and merciless USA which scored eight times. So it was no surprise that the Czechs opted to give tonight's goalkeeping opportunity to another. Cilova looked more at ease in goal than Pincova, but Cilova's action when leaping might mean she has a short international career. Not many referees will be as lenient as Ogston with Cilova's outstretched leg which puts her studs at chest height in the jump.

Coming off the rout against the USA, the Czech Republic needed to step up a gear if they were not to be similarly over-run.

They showed their class just five minutes in.

Katerina Duskova managed to beat long-serving national team representative Cheryl Salisbury on the turn inside the 18-yard box, and her shot needed Matilda goalkeeper Leanne Trimboli to be at her most alert to save.

Trimboli was just one of the familiar names to the Bob Jane regular, and although not related to South captain Paul - she's a South Australian - there was another with a more direct connection. Full-back



Dianne Alagich is the sister of South Melbourne's new signing Richie Alagich.

Matilda Alagich, who left the field just before the final whistle after receiving a head injury after all four Matilda substitutions had already been made, had an important but not feature role on the night. Most of the play involved the Matildas' attacking players.

It's a team confident in possession. It plays a brand of football where supporting players create options for the player with the ball, who is, in turn, happy to hold and wait for the passing opportunity. And it's not just a passing game in the Matildas' armoury - there's a bite to the Matilda's tackles when needed.

Hughes and Heather Garriock combined well in the tenth minute after captain Alison Forman sent a through ball up the left. Hughes just failed to reach Garriock's cross with Cilova well beaten.

Katrina Boyd found the side-netting just a minute later, but had a better effort just after the dismissal with a superb volley gratefully gathered by Cilova.

Boyd had further chances, heading over from Hughes, and then shooting after a sparkling 25 metre jinking run from Kelly Golebiowski. Both were moves where the Matildas showed their technical and tactical skills were of high standard.

Golebiowski herself had a goal disallowed for offside immediately before the crazy two minutes which gave the game to the Matildas.

Team line-ups:

Australia: Trimboli, Alagich, Tann-Darby, Garriock (Duus 77), Salisbury, Small, Forman (c), Wilson (Black 77), Wainwright (Golebiowski 28), Hughes (Murray 56), Boyd. Subs not used: Hepperlin.

Goals: Tann-Darby (59), Murray (60), Black (85).

Yellow Cards: Salisbury (12), Golebiowski (33), Tann-Darby (80), Tlachova (15, 23), Jedlickova (63).

Red Card: Tlachova (23)

Referee: Tammy Ogston

Best Players:

3 - BOYD (AUS),
2 - Forman (AUS),
1 - Hughes (AUS)

Crowd: about 2,000

USA wins Australia Cup with strong win in Adelaide

By Margaret Bowden and Donald Campbell

USA won the Australia Cup with a 3-1 victory over the Matildas last Thursday at Adelaide's Hindmarsh stadium in the third and final game for the Aussies.

After the US started well in the first few minutes Australia turned the tables. Katrina Boyd broke free and looked set to run the ball into the box for a shot, but USA's gigantic full-back Nandi Pryce pulled her off the ball.

Sharon Black lobbed the resultant free kick into the right hand side of the box where Alison Forman leapt to head goalwards, straight to USA keeper Lakesia Beene.

Defender Cheryl Salisbury lost the ball in the centre of the park, Clemens passed it out to Wagner on the right, and Jenny Streiffer ghosted into the left of the box. Wagner knocked the ball across, Streiffer ran onto it and slotted her shot past the advancing Wheeler into the net - 1-0 USA after 14 minutes.

Three minutes later Salisbury flooded danger woman Wagner 20 metres out. Free kick specialist, USA captain Michelle French curled in an unstoppable shot - saved by the crossbar!

The rebound fell to Veronica Zepeda who slammed it back in, Anissa Tann-Darby, the Matildas' most capped player, cleared.

The USA continued to turn up the heat but Coast FM Adelaide Pest Control Best Player for Australia Dianne Alagich, boosted by her home supporter base, read the play like a veteran, tidying up brilliantly at the back. Ironically, the home-town hero turned villain as Alagich put her body in the way of a close

range shot in the congested six yard box. The ball deflected past Wheeler into the net - 2-0 USA after 33 minutes.

The next ten minutes saw Wheeler make two desperate saves, tipping a booming shot from Wagner over the bar then scrambling low after a magic backheel from Clemens. Forman won the ball in midfield with a brilliant tackle and lobbed to Black on the 18 yard line. Black flicked the ball into the penalty area for Hughes, who headed what appeared to be a certain goal.



The second half began with a flurry of corners for the USA before the Matildas turned the tide.

Wheeler was forced to race 10 metres outside her area to clear a long ball from Wagner to sub Susan Bush. Hughes passed to Black on the left who let fly an opportunistic long shot. Beene misjudged it and Australia earned only their second corner for the match.

Another corner for the Matildas on the right. Black slammed the ball high and long into the penalty area where Forman rose to bullet in a header, leaving Deene stranded. Goal Australia - what a roar from the fans - 2-1 USA after 73 minutes.

Danielle Small came into the thick of things, staging a running battle with Danielle Slaton, and Amy Wilson time and again pushed forward from the back.

Australia was looking dangerous when disaster struck. Wheeler (pictured) failed to clear her area, giving Wagner a free shot - 3-1 USA after 82 minutes and that was how the game ended.

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The Boys from Brazil are back in town

By John Vrtaric

This coming weekend, round 17, features the first match of a two-leg series with the teams facing each other again on Australia day, Wednesday 26 January.

The feature game sees the return of current champions South Melbourne from their Brazil Club Championship sojourn as they face current leaders, Sydney Olympic.

The match, to be played in Sydney, is vital for Branko Culina's team as they try avoid a third loss in a row. After a reversal to the in-form Newcastle Breakers they were beaten by bottom team Sydney United on the weekend.

Culina should see the return of most of his absentees from the United game and he'll need them to quell the dangers that will be provided by the returning South Melbourne.

Having been pitted against the likes of Vasco Da Gama and Manchester United it will be back to the bread and butter of NSL at Belmore Sports Ground.

Culina will have his team fired up after their disappointments of late but

South Melbourne, now totally focused on the NSL, should be able to grab a point against an Olympic team that will still be below full strength.

A match featuring the highest and lowest scoring teams doesn't sound like it would whet the appetite the purists but last week's 2-0 home win against the leaders gave indication that Sydney United will provide Wollongong, who are on a roll, with a stern test down in Wollongong.

Nick Theodorakopoulos' attacking formation - with three strikers - will test the newly acquired 4-4-2 formation of David Ratcliffe's United. The Wolves will hope their strikers continue their scoring while United will rely on their talented midfield quartet of Genc, Pondeljak, Arrarte and Rastall to supply the ammunition for their new striker, Zvonko Usljebrka, ironically born in Wollongong.

Another game that looks attractive on paper is the clash of past leaders Brisbane Strikers at home to the inconsistent Marconi Stallions. The Strikers, with their two Joeys Jade North and Wayne Shroj back in the fold, had a good win against Melbourne Knights two games

ago but came unstuck away to the Falcons on the weekend.

Marconi, who seem to play better away, who have acquired a couple youngsters from the AIS themselves, will need to get back to the winning list to maintain pace with the top six.

Two of the newest members of the NSL, Carlton and Northern Spirit, clash in Melbourne on Friday with more pressure on Graham Arnold's boys as they strive to catch up to the top half of the field after giving them a big head start.

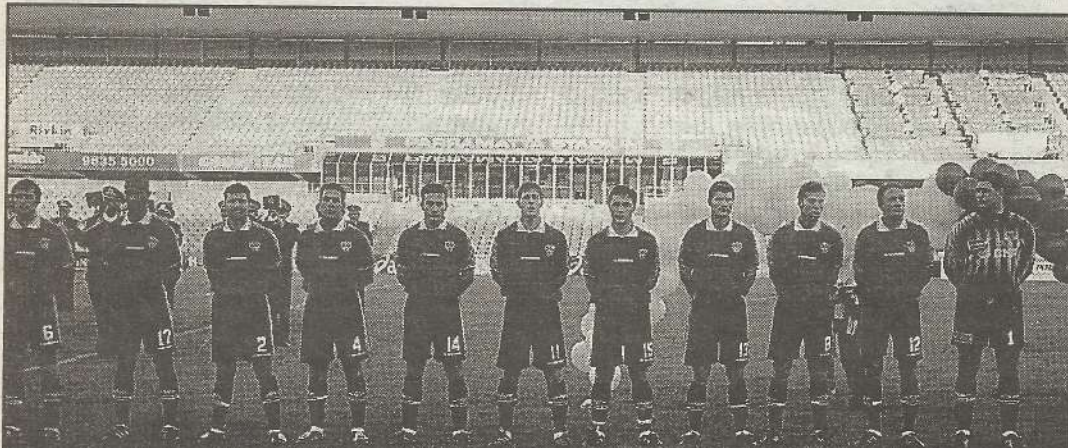
Also in Melbourne the Knights clash with Canberra Cosmos in a clash for the wooden spoon while Power start their chase of the top six after a two week break with Gippsland visiting on Saturday night.

The last game of the round matches the in-form Newcastle Breakers against the improving Adelaide City Force with the Breakers hoping for a 10,000 plus crowd.



Super-coach Postecoglou's South Melbourne, fresh from Brazil, will be in Sydney this weekend.

TEAM OF THE WEEK WOLLONGONG WOLVES



Nick T's Wollongong Wolves. Playing with a four-man strikeforce they ran all over Carlton on the weekend, who are not too shabby themselves. Wolves are now just one point off top spot on the ladder. Surely this entertaining and successful side deserves to pull more fans. If it was Spirit playing this way they would average 18,000.

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"My own view on the matter, though, is quite philosophical. While I hate to think how many Coventry matches these two might miss - the African Nations Cup is from 22 January to 13 February - I think the point has to be made that, as I was aware that this was liable to happen when I signed the pair, I can hardly moan about it now."

Coventry manager Gordon Strachan on the club v country issue as it relates to his Moroccans Haji and Chippo. Are you listening Leeds United?

There are many situations in soccer when a referee has bad luck and this referee had bad luck. Maybe he is not world class but he did a good job during the game."

Bernd Stange on the referee for his game against Spirit Friday night.

"It was terrible to have such a surface in the middle of the pitch - the cricketers should play cricket here but not soccer."

Bernd Stange again on the bane of Aussie Soccer: cricket pitches.

'Bring on the the Petrol Pump Attendant': At 8.15pm BBC 1 will devote two hours to the most meaningless football match in history ... South Melbourne - who number a petrol pump attendant, tax advisor ...

The English tabloid The Mirror's front page diatribe on the WCC game Man U v South. It's the patronising, self-serving, narrow-minded nonsense we have come to expect.

		(Overall)								(Home)						(Away)					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	16	9	3	4	26	16	30	10	3	3	1	11	7	6	0	3	15	9			
Wollongong Wolves	16	8	5	3	32	24	29	8	6	0	2	18	12	2	5	1	14	12			
Perth Glory	16	8	5	3	30	18	29	12	5	2	1	19	9	3	3	2	11	9			
Brisbane Strikers	16	8	4	4	26	15	28	11	4	3	1	18	8	4	1	3	8	7			
Carlton	15	7	5	3	29	17	26	12	4	3	1	15	8	3	2	2	14	9			
Newcastle Breakers	15	7	5	3	22	19	26	3	4	3	1	15	12	3	2	2	7	7			
Marconi	15	7	2	6	21	21	23	0	4	0	3	9	10	3	2	3	12	11			
Auckland Kingz	15	5	5	5	26	27	20	-1	2	3	2	13	15	3	2	3	13	12			
Gippsland Falcons	16	5	5	6	12	16	20	-4	3	2	3	7	7	2	3	3	5	9			
Northern Spirit	16	6	2	8	16	22	20	-6	3	1	4	8	11	3	1	4	8	11			
South Melbourne	14	5	3	6	22	21	18	1	4	2	1	16	7	1	1	5	6	14			
Adelaide Force	16	4	6	6	16	18	18	-2	3	2	2	9	7	1	4	4	7	11			
Parramatta Power	14	4	3	7	23	26	15	-3	2	3	3	11	11	2	0	4	12	15			
Canberra Cosmos	16	4	2	10	20	31	14	-11	2	1	5	10	11	2	1	5	10	20			
Melbourne Knights	16	4	2	10	15	32	14	-17	3	1	4	7	8	1	1	6	8	24			
Sydney United	16	3	3	10	10	23	12	-13	3	1	5	7	10	0	2	5	3	13			

Produced with the assistance of McRopod Concept Sports Systems - www.planet.net.au/~mcropod.

NSL TOP SCORERS:

PAUL FOSTER (Strikers)	11 goals
MICHAEL CURCIJA (SM)	9
ALEX MOREIRA (CAR)	9
CON BOUTSIANIS (PG)	9
SASO PETROVSKI (WW)	8
ESALA MASI (WC)	8
JOHN BUONAVOGLIA (NB)	7
JOEL GRIFFITHS (PP)	7
DAMIAN MORI (AC)	7

CROWD COMPARISON:

Cumulative:

99/00: 643,305 (Games still to be played)

98/99: 626,364

Spirit 2000: a more settled line-up

NORTHERN SPIRIT 1

Casserley 32

PERTH GLORY 1

Boutsianis 63

Friday night at North Sydney Oval, Sydney. Crowd 11,128.



MATCH STATS:



M Langdon.



Boutsianis.

Yellows:

Red Card:

Northern Spirit: John Perosh 65

Best Players:

3. MATTHEW BINGLEY

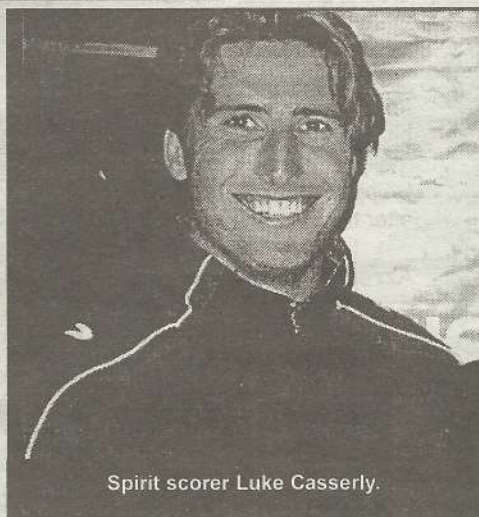
2. Hamilton Thorp

1. Troy Cranney

Referee: Brett Hugo

NORTHERN SPIRIT: J Perosh, M Bingley, L Casserly, J Sobczyk (P Moss 86), T Cranney, P Bilokapic, M Cunico, R Slater (C), D Seal (M Rudan 67), T Perinich,

PERTH GLORY: J Petkovic, R Trajkovski, G Naven (C), S Miller, J Harnwell, E Junior, H Thorp, T Halpin (J Afkos 86), B Despotovski, I Ergic (P Buljan 46), C



Spirit scorer Luke Casserly.

half when a ghosting header powered towards the top right corner of the net by David Seal, from a Luke Casserly corner on the left, was stopped on the line by defender Scott Miller, who knew very little about it and was just lucky to be in the way.

It was a classy header, from among a crowd of players, with Seal having no room to move, but it emphasised his predatory attributes and further signalled that he may be on the way back to his striking best.

The lone Spirit goal came from the left boot of Casserly who latched onto a ball provided to him, on the right, just outside the box, by the midfield workhorse Troy Cranney, following some good pass-

"I am absolutely over the moon. Our effort was first class and I couldn't pick a bad player for us tonight."

Graham Arnold on Spirit's display.



Hamilton Thorp: one of the better players for Glory on Friday night.

ing lead-up work on the right.

Casserly struck his shot with some venom, leaving Jason Petkovic helpless to reach the ball, despite a valiant attempt.

One of Perth's best players so far this season, Ivan Ergic, the 18 year old boy from the north country of WA, had one of his best games in the first half, but did not reappear for the second.

It was established, after the game, that he had fallen foul of that curse of non-soccer designed stadiums, the confounded cricket pitch, no amount of preparation being able to avoid problems for footballers who cannot function efficiently on its over-hard and often slippery surfaces.

It has always been a bugbear for

soccer clubs wishing to play at the highest level and Spirit are not alone in having to cope with a ground ill-equipped to showcase the skills of the round ball player.

Perth themselves have been lobbying to get a designated soccer arena of their own.

Ergic appeared to be playing well, but during that hectic first half he tore muscles in his groin and could be out for several weeks, due to the slippery surface of the cricket square.

Others slipped and slid around, throughout the game, including many of the Spirit players.

Had Ergic remained and Troy Halpin not also come off with an injury, the Glory might well have staged a second half revival to take them to victory.

Their defence was a tower of strength and so was the Spirit's on this occasion.

Well-led by Matthew Bingley at sweeper, with Bilokapic and Casserly doing plenty of work as well, they coped admirably with a Glory side for whom Bobby Despotovski and Con Boutsianis played well, but only in patches.

When Perosh committed his unfortunate handling offence it was Bingley who took over between the posts, leaving the

team without its key defender and many wondered how the home team would manage.

Casserly moved to sweeper with

Seal giving way to substitute Mark Rudan, a little rusty after an injury-enforced lay off.

The team did well to maintain its composure and Bingley even managed some good saves.

With Spirit playing well after the break and looking to go on with the job they were caught out in the 63rd minute by a low cross, cum drive, to the near post by Boutsianis from wide out on the left.

Perosh got to the near post to cover the shot, but the arrival of substitute Peter Buljan put him under additional pressure and the ball squeezed past him and rolled just over the line, despite his desperate attempt to dive on it as it straddled the line.

It was cruel luck for the Spirit who had dominated the first half and deservedly taken a 32nd minute lead.

Apart from some strong running towards goal by Ergic and to a lesser extent his combinations with Despotovski which saw shots dealt with adequately by covering defenders and Perosh, Perth were on the back foot.

Matthew Langdon was again troubling his marker with a string of clever crosses many of which eluded their target men by centimetres.

Spirit won a few free kicks around the edge of the Glory penalty area and from one on the right Casserly rocked the crossbar with a fierce drive to emphasise the way the momentum was with the home side as they attacked the Bob Stand end in the first half.

Apart from Langdon's running and captain Robbie Slater's and Casserly's good movement the midfield was watertight. Troy Cranney got through a ton of work in the centre and shared those duties with Michael Cunico who was again a major player for his side.

When Perosh was sent off the side had been reprieved, but the incident that



Matt Bingley: a man of the match display that saw him in goals for part of the match.

led to his dismissal was most unfortunate.

A ball had rebounded off a player after being cleared and fell invitingly for Despotovski well out from goal but with no defenders between him and the goal. Perosh reacted instinctively by leaving his line and did not manage to claim the ball, merely getting a flailing hand to it which allowed the Glory player to go on and finish the job.

Sadly for the visitors, referee Hugo had immediately blown his whistle and brandished his brightest red card, thus nullifying the goal as the ball was still on its way to its destination as the official's arm went up.

At the finish both coaches were satisfied with the point, though both had been keen to win the match. Stange felt that it was another valuable point on his travels, while Graham Arnold believed that as Perth are one of the best sides in the league, and hanging on for a point with ten men was a good outcome.

He praised his side for their total commitment and said that it was their best performance of the season.

"I am absolutely over the moon," he said.

"Our effort was first class and I couldn't pick a bad player for us tonight."

Glory coach Bernd Stange was diplomatic as ever about the refereeing decision which may have cost him the extra two points.

"It was an unfortunate mistake," he admitted.

"He probably blew a little too early, but an away point is still good for us."

Stange's main observations were about the pitch and Arnold, when asked, had to concur.

He agreed that the groundsman needed to have a look at the cricket area, but the reality is that as long as football teams play on cricket grounds there will always be problems.

The two sports just aren't compatible, unlike the rugby and Australian Rules games which are mainly played in the winter months anyway.

Spirit will now travel to Carlton and return to meet the same opponents on Australia Day at North Sydney Oval. Given their recent improvements, if they knuckle down they could pick up some useful points from both matches.

By Paul Goodwin

Another large crowd, despite the strong pull of the one-day international cricket across the bridge, saw a gutsy Northern Spirit hold on for a 1-1 draw against the strong Perth Glory side at North Sydney Oval.

Glory were completely outplayed in the first half, but after scoring in the 63rd they began to come into the picture and caught Spirit out with a piece of good anticipation which saw John Perosh committed to leave his area to prevent a goal, handling illegally in the process and getting his marching order from referee Brett Hugo.

It was the turning point for both sides, but whereas Spirit played it sensibly and regrouped to defend doggedly, the Perth side, to the chagrin of their astute coach Bernd Stange, failed to capitalise and never really raised the tempo enough to stretch the 10 men from North Sydney.

Northern Spirit, becoming more of a settled side nowadays with key players recognising their own specific jobs, looked more than capable of winning the game from the kick off.

They put together some flowing passing movements and entertained a crowd which seemed to grow as the game wore on.

The game could have been won by either side at the finish.

Perth were very unfortunate that the referee blew for the handling offence when the play could have continued long enough for the ball to wind up in the empty Spirit net, legitimately. It was put there by Con Boutsianis, but the referee had already stepped in by that stage.

With that let-off, their chances were restricted, but the home team might have stretched their lead early in the second

Cervinski turns it on for entertaining Wolves

WOLLONGONG WOLVES 3

Chipperfield 15, Young 59, Masi 83.

CARLTON 2

Thompson 17, McPherson 86.

Sunday night at Brandon Park, Wollongong. Crowd: 4,294.



MATCH STATS:



WOLLONGONG WOLVES:

Pogliacomi, Souris, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Young (Surjan 77).

Chipperfield, Petrovski, Huxley (Spencer 45), Masi (Harlock 89).



CARLTON:

Anastasiadis, Deans, McPherson, Anthopoulos, Azzopardi, Marth, Lapsansky, Slater, Packer (Terminello 65).

Conroy (Moreira 65), Thompson (Motsiopoulos 71).

Yellows:

Wollongong: Huxley 21, Young 25, Souris 84, Chipperfield 90

Carlton: Marth 89

Best Players

3. CERVINSKI (WOLLONGONG)

2. Chipperfield (Wollongong)

1. Azzopardi (Carlton)

Referee: Mark Shield.

By Stephen Webb

A depleted Carlton weren't quite a match for a full-strength Wolves playing in front of their home crowd on Sunday night.

Carlton's fill-in back line did well for most of the match but the forward line missed the strength of John Markovski.

Wollongong, following inspirational performances from skipper Matt Horsley and forward Scott Chipperfield, were hungrier for the ball and more exciting when they had it.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos started with all four of his regular striking options: Scott Chipperfield, Esala Masi, Stuart Young and Saso Petrovski. They constantly ran at Carlton's defence while Wollongong's backs comfortably held out Carlton and initiated the counter attacks.

The visitors had much of the possession, especially in the first half, but their slow build-ups came to nought - either shut down by Souris, Stanton and Cervinski or ending in harmless long shots or high balls that Les Pogliacomi handled easily.

Yet the game was always close and even when 3-1 down Carlton found extra energy and kept themselves in the hunt for a point.

Wollongong's usual fast attack from the kickoff didn't yield results this week.

During an initial "testing" period Cervinski made a fine tackle on Packer and McPherson cut out a pass down the line to Masi.

The first chance came Wolves' way in the fourth minute. A Masi one-touch pass put Petrovski into the right side of Carlton's penalty area. Petrovski pulled the ball back for Young who opted for placement instead of power and shot wide of the left upright.

Masi's performance on the evening was very mixed. His facility to disappoint presented itself in the sixth minute when Azzopardi missed a long ball from Horsley leaving Masi with only the keeper to beat. But Masi dwelled too long on the ball, giving the young Carlton defender the chance to chase back and make amends.

Azzopardi's speed and competitiveness were manifest at many other crucial points in the game.

Two minutes after Masi's blunder Pogliacomi made one at the other end, fumbling a catch and having to run back to catch Conroy's attempted lob under the crossbar.

When Masi was able to get into the right side of Carlton's area and pull the ball back across the goal mouth, Chipperfield missed his kick altogether. The ball came to Young who was beaten (and then dragged to the ground).

In the 13th minute Chipperfield beat Slater well on the left and delivered a marvellous switch to Petrovski who was caught by Anthopoulos.

But effort was rewarded two minutes later after Ceccoli won a throw in from a skirmish with McPherson near the corner flag. Ceccoli took his long throw quickly, finding Masi at the near post. The Fijian striker fended off Deans with his body and laid off to Chipperfield running hard into the box. Wolves had their first goal as Chipperfield blasted it into the back of the net.

In another minute Masi was through again, beating Azzopardi, but Deans cleared his cross.

Then Carlton took advantage of Wollongong's ever-more-frequent post-goal vulnerability. Thompson, who was kept quiet by Souris for much of the match, beat Stanton to a deflected cross from Slater and headed past Pogliacomi.

Wollongong, stung, kept up the pressure - Masi took the ball down the left and passed inside to Chipperfield whose attempted cross was blocked by Azzopardi. From the Chipperfield corner Masi's shot was charged down and attempts by Ceccoli and Horsley were blocked.

In the 26th minute Petrovski returned a flick-on from Masi, setting him toward goal. But Masi, under pressure from Azzopardi, shot across goal, wide of the left upright.

Young touched Chipperfield on his way to goal but he didn't have enough legs to get around McPherson.

At this point Carlton didn't look like they wanted to score again.

Cervinski was giving Conroy a heading lesson, only losing out when the Carlton player had a good lead on the ball. Once he ran back to rob the ball from Conroy's head and conceded a corner when it looked as though Conroy had a free header at goal.

Horsley, whose non-stop running was often to the detriment of Slater's attacking efforts, relished the chance to bring a penetrating Thompson run to an abrupt conclusion.

The Wolves skipper soon missed a chance to shoot, instead chipping it across goal where Ceccoli caught Slater on the ball and won another of Wolves'

many corners.

Ceccoli had two more near misses before the end of the first half. For Wollongong Horsley also shot wide while for Carlton Deans shot over the bar.

Wolves didn't relent after the break.

Horsley forced a corner from Anastasiadis saving at his post. And Deans had to make good tackles on Chipperfield and, recovering after being beaten, on Young.

In the 50th minute Azzopardi ran Petrovski down when he took too long to unleash a shot after being released by Masi. Petrovski turned the ball back to Ceccoli who gave it to Young for a shot over the bar.

When Carlton got into the action they showed how smoothly they could move the ball around. Slater put a good ball into the box for Thompson who was forced to lay it back to Packer. Packer found Anthopoulos and, finally, Conroy who let the movement break down.

In the 56th minute Souris beat Thompson to a Carlton clearance and hit a long ball into the Carlton box where Cervinski's first-time volley went high and wide.

Three minutes later Chipperfield was again breaking through midfield. He put the ball left to Petrovski who took it to the penalty area before turning it back to Young who shot low and hard from 20 metres past Anastasiadis diving to his right.

Anthopoulos made a responsive shot after robbing Stanton in midfield and running at goal. His effort from outside the box contained little venom, however, and Pogliacomi made a comfortable diving save.

With rain falling, Thompson just beat Stanton in a 63rd minute heading duel but the ball dropped for a Wollongong clearance. And Lapsansky resorted to another long shot, easily gathered by the Wolves keeper.

Moreira, on for Conroy, did contribute to some attacking moves but lost out against Cervinski almost as badly as did Conroy.

After 68 minutes a Slater cross almost found Thompson in front of goal but Spencer's height gave him too much of an advantage. Another cross from Slater in the 75th minute found both McPherson and Moreira on the far post. Moreira appeared to rob McPherson. His header beat Pogliacomi but fell harmlessly to Souris.

Wolves were soon attacking again. Horsley ran down and beat Slater. He passed to Stanton who deftly delivered to Petrovski and on to Chipperfield who pushed the ball too far trying to round Azzopardi.

When Stanton and Petrovski combined again, Masi returned the ball to Petrovski who seemed to have broken free but was stopped by a very close off-side decision.

The Masi-Petrovski combination was much more productive in the 83rd minute. Petrovski pushed the ball through to Masi and ran to the right side of Carlton's area where Masi found him again. Petrovski looked to have lost the ball but succeeded



Former Carlton player Dave Cervinski destroyed the Blues at Wollongong on Sunday.

in holding it long enough to make it ready for Masi's arrival in the box: Wolves had three.

A minute later Souris fouled Marth. The free kick took a slight deflection and Pogliacomi had to make a good save to his left.

He wasn't as lucky from Lapsansky's corner: McPherson, unmarked, powerfully headed home. And Wolves' lead was in danger.

Attack and counter-attack continued to the end until Wolves were content to kill off the final minutes.

Azzopardi held out another Chipperfield sortie. Moreira beat Spencer, got a return from Slater and beat Cervinski - but only to see Stanton mop up.

Moreira also hit a long cross from the left touchline but Pogliacomi saved well over Marth's head.

Marth had played an important role for Carlton, consolidating in midfield, and participating in Carlton's forward thrusts.

For the most part, Deans and McPherson were effective in nullifying Masi and Petrovski.

For Wollongong, Young demonstrated his usual control, good vision and artful touches, and Alvin Ceccoli showed continuing improvement in strength and speed. Though, like Cervinski and Horsley on the night, his longer passing was disappointing.

After the game Theodorakopoulos was chuffed that his four-forwards play had paid off - and that his defenders had performed so well.

He even made allowances for his team's concentration lapses. They had run Carlton off their legs, he said. It was hot and humid. He was not surprised there were occasional lapses.

He thought his side had played one of its games of the season. They had played a quality side, taken the game to them and scored plenty of goals.

If any Wollongong supporters are reading this, the Wolves coach wants to know: what will it take to get you to the ground? He genuinely wants you to tell him what more his players should do.

Falcons win the points in fiery battle

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 2

MacNicol 43, Vargas 61.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 1

Meredith pen 89.

Saturday night at Falcons Stadium, Morwells. Crowd: 1,750.



MATCH STATS:



GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis (sent off 88min), Durakovic, Marcina, Vargas, Bell, Hutchinson, Kakos, Mandic (Savage 89min), MacNicol (Katz 76min). Sub not used: Robertson



BRISBANE STRIKERS:

Bolton, Gwynne, Stefanutto, Davidson,

McLaren, Srhoj (Bell 69min), Hews (Meredith 57min), North (sent off 60min), Dwyer, Grierson (Ditton 69min), Harris.

Yellows:

Brisbane Strikers: Dwyer 18, Bolton 18, North 33, McLaren 82, Harris 83.
Gippsland Falcons: Vargas 18, Gotis 18.

Reds:

Brisbane Strikers: North 60.
Gippsland Falcons: Gotis 88.

Best Players:

3. VARGAS (FALCONS)
2. Durakovic (Falcons)
1. McLaren (Brisbane Strikers)

Referee: Matthew Breeze

By Lucio Viggiano

An all-in fracas involving 21 players, nine yellow cards and two players sent-off added up to a fiery and entertaining encounter at Mobil Park, Morwell on Saturday night.

Brisbane needed a win to consolidate its place in the top four and to gain revenge for a home defeat by the Falcons earlier in the season. The Falcons, on the rebound after a controversial defeat in Perth, needed the three points to maintain any hope of making the finals.

Brisbane came into the game without the league's top scorer Paul Foster, out suspended, while the Falcons were without striker Juan Nilo also suspended and attacking wing-back Robbie Puca, out injured.

The match began at a frantic pace with both sides keen to gain the ascendancy with an early goal. The Falcons settled earliest with the midfield combination of Vargas and Bell making best use of the ball and creating the first opportunity of the game when they linked up with Mandic to put Kakos in behind the Brisbane defence in the 3rd minute.

Kakos hesitated and his shot was well blocked by the Brisbane defence. From the resulting corner Kakos found himself unmarked at the far post only to see his header well saved by Bolton.

Falcons were well on top in the early stages of the match with Brisbane content to sit back and absorb the pressure applied by the Falcons who had come into the game with a three-pronged attack of Kakos, Mandic and MacNicol.



Strikers' Nick Meredith was involved in everything for the Queenslanders.

Brisbane's response to the Falcons pressure were long-range efforts by Grierson and Hews, but neither threatened the Falcons goal.

Vargas and Bell again combined well for the Falcons in the 16 minute in one of the best moves of the game. Great link play by the two midfielder's lead to a teasing cross by Bell that found Mandic unmarked at the far post. His looping header was well tipped over by the agile Bolton in the Brisbane goal.

Bell was involved again in the 17 minute when he played MacNicol through behind the Brisbane defence. MacNicol choosing to cut inside rather than take the first shooting option, was crowded out and his attempt blocked by the Strikers defence.

The game was becoming a scrappy and physical affair almost boiling over in the 18 minute when Durakovic was fouled off the ball while defending a corner.

With Durakovic on the ground trying to regain his breath, an all-in fracas erupted with many players lucky to find themselves still on the park with four yellow cards being handed out - the most noteworthy being to Clint Bolton who sprinted 100 metres to get a piece of the action.

After a five-minute delay the players decided to resume playing football with the Falcons putting Brisbane under more pressure.

The Strikers were finding it difficult to get into the game, with McLaren working overtime at the back to keep them in the contest. Brisbane clearly were missing Paul Foster and struggling to put any fluent attacking moves together.

The Falcons on the other hand had a great chance again in the 36 minute when a long throw and flick on by Mandic found MacNicol unmarked in the box, his swivel and shot well saved by Bolton.

The constant wave of pressure by Falcons paid dividends in the 43 minute

when Durakovic played a magnificent ball over the Brisbane defence into the path of MacNicol. MacNicol this time took the first option and looped the ball over an advancing Bolton to put the Falcons ahead.

The second half began with Brisbane making all the running in an attempt to get back into the match.

A great run by Chey Hews in the 51 minute set up Srhoj whose shot from the edge of the box deflected off Vargas and on to the upright with Jevdjevic beaten in the Falcons goal.

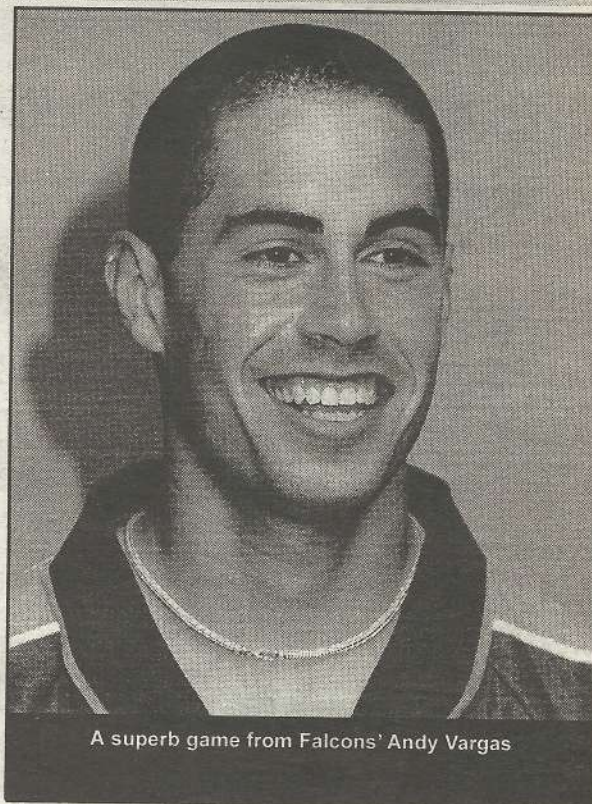
Brisbane suffered a double blow when young Jade North was dismissed for his second bookable offence in the 60 minute. From the resultant free kick, Andy Vargas curled a superb shot around the Strikers wall into the top right corner to register the second goal for the home team.

Brisbane responded well in the 65th minute when a long throw by Meredith found Harris at the back post, but he blasted his shot well over the bar. Meredith was in everything for Brisbane, but the Falcons defensive trio of Fak, Gotis and Durakovic had all the answers.

Kosmina played his hand in the 69 minute with a double substitution and pushed Stuart McLaren up forward in an attempt to get a result from the game.

As is often the case a 10-man side lifts and Brisbane through the efforts of Meredith and McLaren were enjoying their best period of the match with Falcons happy to sit on their lead.

The Falcons had a nervous last 5 minutes with Gotis sent off for his second bookable offence and Brisbane drawing a penalty in the 89 minute after Durakovic handled a cross under pressure. The resulting penalty calmly slotted away by



A superb game from Falcons' Andy Vargas

Meredith. 2-1 the final scoreline.

A good home victory for the Falcons that keeps them in touch with the top six and away from the foot of the table where most of the so-called experts expected to see them at this stage of the season.

The best player on the night was Andy Vargas in midfield for the Falcons, his ball distribution and ability to bring his team-mates into the game was a delight to watch. His goal was also a classic that will be remembered at Mobil Park for some time.

Mehmet Durakovic at the back had yet another solid performance for the Falcons and is one of the prime reasons why the Falcons are so competitive this season. A notable performer was Stuart McLaren who battled his heart out for Brisbane all night, firstly in defence and later in attack.



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Sydney United's sweet victory



SYDNEY UNITED 2

Bosevski 67, Genc 90+

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

Sunday night at Sydney United Sports Centre, Sydney. Crowd 4,622.

MATCH STATS:



SYDNEY UNITED:
Hughes, Jurilj, Bosnar,
Maric, Palapanis,
Pondeljak, Rastall,
Genc, (Moric J. 74),
Arrarte, Jermen
(Bosevski 66), Usljebrka (Bozinovski 82).



SYDNEY OLYMPIC:
Kourtis, Baillie, Juric,
Sinozic, Kohler, Wilson,
Zorbas, Phillips (Tome 68), Mendez (Miot 74),
Carle, Kalantzis (Macallister 62).

Yellow:

United: Arrarte 18, Rastall 31, Moric 81, Genc 90.

Olympic: Baillie 47, Kalantzis 52.

Best Players:

3. RASTALL (UNITED)

2. Bosnar (United)

1. Baillie (Olympic)

Referee: Eddie Lennie

By John Vrtaric

If you looked at the National Soccer League table you would have expected this game to end in an easy victory for the visitors. Sydney Olympic were sitting on top of the table whilst Sydney United were lying dead last.

Even if you looked at the two teams' most recent performance you would not have believed that Olympic could lose this game. Although Olympic were last start 3-2 losers against the in-form Newcastle, United's last start produced probably their worst performance of the season when they were thrashed 3-0 away to Northern Spirit.

On form it looked like no contest but Olympic were missing up to six regular players with their entire strike force of Pablo Cardozo, Zlatko Arambasic and Norman Tome not starting the game. (Tome was on the substitute bench with a start being prevented due to a family bereavement earlier in the week.)

The Olympic defence wasn't spared either with long-term injured captained Peter Tsekenis being joined on the side-line by Chris Zoricich, traveling with New Zealand national team, and Olyroo captain Brett Emerton, who was suspended for this game.

United, too, had injury absentees with both regular central defenders, captain Velimir Kupresak and Vince Savoca out of the match.

With such depleted teams, expectations were not high for a high quality game but most pundits were pleasantly surprised with both the result and the standard of football produced by both teams, but particularly the home team.

After last week's terrible performance against Spirit coach David Ratcliffe made a tactical change as well as welcoming back young sweeper Eddie Bosnar who answered his coach's call with a great per-

formance (after having played a full game for the Olyroos the previous night.)

Ratcliffe changed his formation from the normal 3-5-2 to a what is now an almost ancient 4-4-2 style. As well as the tactical change the United coach relied on the personal pride of his players to lift their performance.

Ratcliffe also introduced a new striker - Wollongong born Zvonko Usljebrka who came to the club via Bosnia where he spent the last season. A prolific scorer in Bosnia Ratcliffe may have been clutching at straws, particularly as Usljebrka had not played for a number of weeks, but he had to try to solve his team's goalscoring problem.

This little piece of coaching 'magic' did the trick and the team produced its best performance of the season to inflict a thoroughly deserving 2-0 win.

Olympic coach Branko Culina had to rely on youngsters to fill his vacant spots - young Nick Carle started the match as striker alongside the experienced Chris Kalantzis while local junior Paul Kohler replaced Brett Emerton and Young Soccerro Sebastian Sinozic took the place of Chris Zoricich.

United produced the first of the many chances they created in the first half as early as the third minute. A one-two between Kain Rastall and Nahael Arrarte saw Rastall deliver a telling through ball to newcomer Usljebrka who dragged the ball past his marker to put himself within shooting sight of Jim Kourtis' goal.

Usljebrka was denied a dream start by the quickly advancing Kourtis who smothered the striker's shot.

United were out of the blocks much faster than Olympic and quickly took the ascendancy as their midfield, with Kain Rastall prominent, took control.

In the eighth minute Lindsay Wilson lost possession to the speedy Tom Pondeljak who quickly counter-attacked but his square pass to Mario Jermen was a little too far ahead of the striker with Kourtis just beating him to the ball.

United's early attacks were directed down the right hand side where Pondeljak, Rastall and right back Mirko Jurilj were causing many problems for Olympic left wing back Lindsay Wilson and company.

A number of crosses descended from that right touch-line with most cleared safely but in the 14th minute another cross from the right was headed towards the far post. An unattended Arrarte stooped low to head the bouncing ball towards the 'keeper's right post but it lacked power and Kourtis saved easily.

In the 21st minute another move between Jurilj and Pondeljak produced a cross to the near post where Mario Jermen was first to the ball but his shot was deflected for a corner.

Two minutes later a neat dummy by Jermen from a Genc pass down the middle allowed the ball to roll neatly into the path of Usljebrka whose well struck left foot shot was aimed straight at the solar plexus of Kourtis.

Olympic had their first clear opportunity in the 28th minute when a lovely chip

by Mendez freed Kalantzis on the left and his first time cross allowed Carle a near post shot which was deflected away for a corner.

Another quick counter attack in the 39th minute allowed Jurilj to give a first time pass over the top with Pondeljak the quickest to the ball. He took it inside the box but just as he was about to shoot he stumbled over it and lost his opportunity to open the scoring.

A similar counter attack in the 43rd minute on the left saw a neat move between Carle, Mendez and Kalantzis. Kalantzis' final square pass to Carle in the middle did not produce a clear chance as Carle's attempt at dribbling past a defender failed and ball was quickly cleared.

The half ended in a stalemate and it wasn't until the 52nd minute that the first opportunity of the second half was produced.

Rastall's trickery on the left side of the field allowed him to produce a right foot cross where Usljebrka had a clear header on goal but it easily cleared the cross bar.

Two minutes later a move between the two youngsters Kohler and Peter Zorbas on the right produced a corner for Olympic. From the resulting corner Scott Baillie was the first to the ball but his clean header thundered against Brett Hughes' cross bar. As the ball bounced out Carle produced an acrobatic scissor kick which repeated Baillie's effort by hitting the cross bar and bouncing out - this time easily cleared by the defence.

A Wilson intercept in the 58th minute saw him speed off downfield where he combined with Carle who set him free with a neat through ball but instead of heading towards the goal to shoot he took the ball to the by-line to cross the ball which was blocked away for a corner.

Another counter attack three minutes later, again involving Carle, ended with a great ball from Kalantzis to Mendez who made a long run down the middle. Mendez's finely measured shot narrowly missed Hughes' left post.

In the 69th minute United's dominance finally paid off. A deep cross from the left was placed perfectly into the path of Nick Bosevski who had entered the fray only seconds earlier.

Bosevski was well clear of his marker, Baillie, who otherwise had a good game, and raced onto the ball and drilled it past Kourtis.

Olympic tried in vain to equalise in the last twenty minutes with its best chance falling in the 86th minute when a Carle free kick from the right saw Ante Juric outjump the defence on the far post but his header hit the side netting.

Then two minutes into injury time a counter-attack



A1 Aytec: a great second goal by Genc put paid to Olympic on Sunday.

produced the second goal - the ball was relayed quickly to Aytec Genc on the left of the Olympic penalty box. Genc stepped around his marker took two steps inside the box and beautifully curled the ball past a stationary Kourtis into his top left-hand corner.

Olympic coach Culina gave credit to the Sydney Utd performance, who he thought deserved to win.

"We weren't up to it today, credit to Sydney United, they fought hard, they worked hard and they were desperate," he said.

United coach Ratcliffe attributed his team's improvement to his player's desire to turn around their performance from last week.

"We were poor last week, everybody saw that, and you either go and hide or you say that I'm a good player and I'm going to show that I'm a good player and they did today."

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Canberra's finest victory of the season



MARCONI STALLIONS 2

Duric 35, Babic 63.

CANBERRA COSMOS 3

Burt 50, 80, De Jesus 89.

Sunday night at Marconi Stadium, Sydney. Crowd 3,932.

MATCH STATS:



MARCONI STALLIONS:

Michael Turnbull, Chad Gibson, Dominic Longo, Darren McDonald (Kris Trajanovski 84), Zjelko Babic, Brad Maloney (c.) Mike Smith, Danny Invincible, Alex Duric (Harry Karl 85), Brendan Renaud (Buddy Farah 90), Vlado Zoric



CANBERRA COSMOS:

Angelo Konstatinou, David Milin, Danny Burt, Jason Polak, David Winnie, Daniel Watkins, Brian Hamilton, Harry James (Toplica Popovich 82), Glen Kolpak, Robert Hooker (c.), Gabriel Gonzalez

Yellows:

Cosmos: H James 5', B Hamilton (25', D Burt 83'.

Stallions: B Maloney 85', B. Farah 89'.

Red Card: B Hamilton 72'

BEST PLAYERS:

3. DANNY BURT

2. Zjelko Babic

1. Brendan Renaud

Referee: David Dwight

By Mark Fowler

When you've lost seven straight games on the trot, are down 2-1 away to Marconi Stallions and with only ten men, you throw the towel in, right?

Well not if you are the Canberra Cosmos, who moved above the Melbourne Knights on the ladder thanks to an amazing last ten minutes of the game at Marconi Stadium.

With 80 minutes gone substitute Ivo de Jesus, who would make an even bigger impact ten minutes later, swung a harmless-looking free kick over from the right hand side of the field. With a one-man advantage there should have been no free headers for a Cosmos player, but there was.

To leave a player open in that situation was bad enough, but even worse was that they left free the Cosmos defender, and scorer of their first goal, Danny Burt.

Burt could hardly believe his luck as he rose completely unchallenged and nodded the ball into the net for what looked like a late equaliser.

Cosmos Coach Tommy Sermanni said he was screaming at his players to get back and defend in those last few minutes, but smiled afterwards, "They didn't listen to me!"

the Stallions as they looked the better team for much of the game, and ironically it was the sending off of the Cosmos' Brian Hamilton in the 72nd minute that switched the game. Hamilton had already been cautioned when he was late going in for another tackle, leaving referee David Dwight no option but to issue the Canberra player's second yellow.

None of this excitement looked likely after the first half, which contained little of note. On eight minutes Marconi linked well with Danny Invincible showing good skill to find Zjelko Babic, but his inside ball was well cut out just before it reached Alex Duric.

Glen Kolpak had the first real effort on goal after 19 minutes, hitting a long-range effort straight at Turnbull, but eight minutes later Stallions skipper Brad

have done better after Renaud capitalised on a rare Robbie Hooker mistake, the Stallions striker dragging his shot wide when he could have done better. On 63 minutes though the Stallions went 2-1 up, and this time Babic made no mistake, the striker scoring the goal his fine performance deserved.

Invincible broke clear down the right and his low ball would have found Duric with an empty goal. Burt did well to block the cross though, but the ball fell nicely to Babic who finished in style from the edge of the penalty area, Burt being unable to stop the ball on the line.

That goal and the sending off ten minutes later should have seen the end of the Cosmos, but their brave performance saw them come back into a game that the Marconi Stallions could end up regretting



A brilliant 3-2 away win for Cosmos on Sunday at Marconi.

Going into the last minute it looked like the Cosmos would hold on to a well-earned draw, when they broke clear down the right-hand side of the pitch. The ball was cut back to the waiting de Jesus, amazingly free on the edge of the penalty area, and he finished neatly with a left-foot drive to make it 3-2 to the visitors.

Marconi pushed forward again in stoppage time but were unable to get a clean shot on goal, substitute Buddy Farah coming closest when his shot was blocked by the Cosmos defence.

It had all looked so much brighter for

Maloney came close to opening the scoring.

Getting in between two defenders Maloney neatly chipped the ball over the advancing Angelo Konstatinou, only to see the ball thud against the crossbar with the goalkeeper well beaten. However the Stallions fans only had to wait another nine minutes before their team got on the score-sheet.

Brendan Renaud, celebrating his 100th game for the Stallions with a fine performance, set up Babic who in turn cut the ball back for Duric. Duric needed no second invitation and drove the ball home with his left-foot to give the home side the lead.

The Stallions attack looked dangerous with Babic, Renaud and Duric all causing problems, but they were unable to add to their tally before the half-time break.

If the first half had been ordinary then the second made up for it. Babic curled a shot that Konstatinou did well to help over the bar. 50 minutes were on the clock when the Cosmos pushed forward, and when David Milin slung the ball over from the corner goalkeeper Michael Turnbull came, stopped, ended up on the floor, and the ball was headed home by Burt for his first of what would become two goals. Turnbull was certainly impeded, although it was hard to tell whether it had been one of his own players or not.

Seconds after the goal Babic could

at the end of the season.

Marconi Stallions coach Eddie Krncevic was naturally disappointed with his team's performance, saying, "We played into their hands with the long ball.

"We played very poorly, there was bad marking on the second goal although we thought there was a foul on our goalkeeper for the first goal.

"A performance like that isn't good enough. That's three games we've lost here (at home) now and we have to keep digging deep and picking points up away from home."

In contrast Canberra Coach Tommy Sermanni was delighted with his team, picking out Glen Kolpak, Brian Hamilton and of course Danny Burt as his team's best performers.

"We had to get our confidence back," said Sermanni, "We had a spell in December where to be honest we didn't look like winning a game."

"There were some signs last week against Adelaide that we were getting back on track. I felt today when we were down to ten men that if we kept plugging away we might snatch a draw, but the win is a bonus."

The Stallions aren't helped by a tough game on Saturday at the Brisbane Strikers, while the Cosmos can move further away from the bottom if they can defeat fellow strugglers Melbourne Knights in Melbourne.



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MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

Kovacevic 89"

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 1

Pelosi 12"

Sunday night at Knights Stadium, Melbourne. Crowd 3,200



MATCH STATS:

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

John, Banini (Vargas 65"), Kovacevic, Vukadin, Sosa, Magdic (Rados 80"), Nasteviski, Kiratzoglou, Cervinski, Kelic, Matkovic (Trupkovic 70").



ADELAIDE CITY FORCE:

Knezevic, Hornjik, Tobin, Costanzo, Kemp (Hassell 87"), Sabljak, Vidmar, Veart, Kim, Pelosi, Mori.

Yellow Cards:

Knights: Vukadin 90

BEST PLAYERS:

3. PELOSI (ADELAIDE)

2. Kovacevic (Knights)

1. Tobin (Adelaide)

Referee: Perry Mur

By Mark Fisher

Adelaide City's comeback trail suffered a painful setback when it failed to convert dominance into results against the Knights on Sunday.

Adelaide, fielding its best eleven, should have had the game sewn up by half time, when Italian import Claudio Pelosi and goal record-chasing Damian Mori ran riot against some scrambling, chasing Knights defence.

But as we have so many times in the NSL this season, the better team relaxed in the final ten minutes and suffered an equalising goal against them right at the death.

Getting that point at home seemed all the more remarkable a feat when one looks over the squad Vlado Vanis had out on the park. No Michael Reda, Mark Silic or Brendan Vassallo there - in fact the first two players mentioned here were left out for disciplinary reasons.

With Ransford Banini returning after being forced to shed some kilos, and with the untried speedster Hrvoje Matkovic up front for the Knights for the first time this season, Vanis indicated a keenness to experiment.

Slavko Rados, a new midfield signing from St Albans, was initiated into the Knights bench in rather quick time. The man they call "Moose" at Somers Street at least deserved full marks for trying, even if his team needs a lot of improving if they are to look like winning again.

A surprisingly phlegmatic Zoran Matic had few words to bring to the media after his team's disappointing draw. He suggested that his players seemed happy to play deep (in an attempt to hold onto their one goal lead) in the second half, to which he said, "if they consciously start dropping back, then that is just the way it is".

Adelaide, needing more results away to remain on the comeback trail for the finals, found space in midfield from the



Former Socceroo captain Alex Tobin: still a difficult defender to pass.

word go.

Pelosi and Veart started to send crosses into the area within the first five minutes after finding space out wide. The central midfield zone seemed largely uncontested by the Knights as Adelaide City Force were first to the ball time and again throughout the first half. Indeed it didn't take long before the Force grabbed the lead.

Damian Mori broke free briefly until he was crunched from the side by at least



Best on ground performance by Italian import Claudio Pelosi (right).

one Knights player. The resultant free kick from Veart found Aurelio Vidmar on the left. Vidmar then crossed accurately to the unmarked Pelosi at the far post, and he made no mistake in heading home.

The Knights' slackness in defence made it look all too easy for City Force, and this encouraged them to keep piling on the pressure.

Vidmar started to really come into the game with some great free runs again into

space on the left. Somehow the Knights got players back before they could be further embarrassed, sparing their 'keeper Martin John from some potential one-on-one confrontations.

At the other end, whilst Alex Kiratzoglou and Dragi Nasteviski tried hard to get the ball into the area, Ivan Kelic struggled to get himself into position for the header.

Hrvoje Matkovic worked hard to get into space, and looked determined in trying to crack Adelaide's solid defence, but the Knights were unable to supply the young forward with the service he required.

Nevertheless, he stayed on the field for seventy minutes and is virtually certain to line up again for the Knights at their next match, according to his coach.

The heart of the hard-to-crack Adelaide defence was the veteran Alex Tobin, ably helped by Hungarian newcomer Attila Hornjik, who had a near faultless game marking Kelic.

Angelo Costanzo played a key part in projecting his team-mates forward down the right wing, feeling comfortable in laying off some good passes to Dongi Ki Kim and Veart.

Despite their numerous fast breaks however, the lack of finishing on the part of the Adelaide attack must have been a cause for concern for Zoran Matic by half-time.

The Knights started to come into the game a lot more in the second half. Dragi Nasteviski looked busy down the right flank in the 47th minute, yet couldn't find a target man.

Ante Kovacevic asserted his presence on the contest, making some useful clearances and picked up his running game with some slippery moves forward in the search for loose midfielders to pass to.

The nearest the Knights got near goal was about twenty-five metres out, where they were content to shoot from long range. It wasn't until about ten minutes from time, after Vanis made effected his full quota of substitutions, that the Knights managed to work themselves well into the area.

Slavko Rados, just after coming on for the Knights, sent a well-weighted cross to Cervinski at the far post in the 82nd minute. All Cervinski could manage to do from ten metres out however was diagonally chip the ball over the bar, rather than back himself for a full-blooded strike on goal.

Some of the Knights fans had had enough, and started to head out of the ground with about five minutes of normal time to go. They would have kicked themselves later, however, for missing an absolute belting equaliser by Kovacevic, it must be said.

In the 89th minute the Somers Street side finally received reward for their persistence, when the big defender took advantage of a weak clearance inside the box to blast powerfully past Vilson Knezevic in goals. An unlikely



Knights' best player was big Ante Kovacevic.

equaliser scored at just the right time rescued a point for the very lucky Knights.

Adelaide had little time to make anything of their last-gasp build-ups, which dissipated in the face of compacted defensive play by the Knights inside time added on.

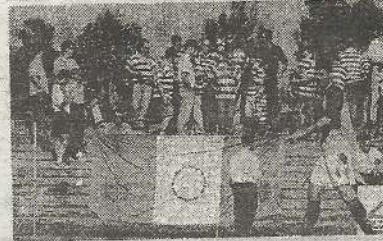
Matic no doubt will rue this outcome as "the result that got away". Vlado Vanis, on the other hand, looked relieved at how the match unfolded and expects his side to improve, particularly in light of his varied training regime, not to mention his preference for giving fringe players opportunities they might not have had under previous coaches at Knights Stadium.

SU43 - Brazil or not Brazil? Who really cares anymore?



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INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER



SOUTHERN DIVISION

Fawkner Blues 1 Carmingiani	South Melbourne 0
Gippsland Falcons 3 Cassar 2, McDermid	Preston Lions 0
VIS 1 Papadopoulos	South Dandenong 2 Barra, Memeti
Melbourne Knights 5 Pelikan 2, Impiombato 2, Vassallo	Knights Academy 1 Sehic
Bulleen Inter 2 Gullaci, Sakaci	Carlton 4 Debevc 2, Vasilevski, Kennedy
Albury Wodonga	Bye

SOUTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	9	9	0	0	41	5	27
VIS	9	8	0	1	28	4	24
Bulleen Inter Kings	9	6	1	2	24	15	19
Melbourne Knights	10	4	2	4	31	22	14
South Dandenong	9	4	2	3	14	13	14
Gippsland Falcons	8	4	2	2	13	15	14
Fawkner Blues	9	3	2	4	11	20	11
South Melbourne	8	3	0	5	18	11	9
Albury Wodonga	9	1	2	6	13	32	5
Knights Academy	8	1	0	7	4	16	3
Preston Lions	10	0	1	9	7	51	1

NORTHERN DIVISION

	P	W	D	B	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney Olympic	15	11	3	1	1	43	12	36
Parramatta Power	15	11	2	1	2	42	13	35
Q.A.S.	16	10	1	1	5	47	25	31
A.I.S.	13	9	2	1	2	51	14	29
Northern Spirit	14	9	2	1	3	41	18	29
Marconi Stallions	14	9	0	1	5	30	21	27
Newcastle Breakers	15	8	1	1	5	27	17	25
Sydney United	13	7	1	1	5	22	25	22
A.C.T.A.S.	15	5	5	1	5	23	34	20
N.S.W.I.S.	14	5	3	2	6	25	19	18
Olympic Academy	15	6	0	1	9	33	54	18
Wollongong Wolves	14	4	2	1	8	16	27	14
Newcastle Colts	16	4	2	1	10	19	32	14
Marconi Colts	15	3	4	1	8	23	36	13
Northern Spirit Colts	14	3	2	1	9	15	37	11
Sydney United Colts	16	2	3	0	1	15	39	9
Wollongong Colts	12	0	1	1	1	7	56	1

NORTHERN DIVISION

N.S.W.I.S. 2 Avaness 7', Engele 41'	Sydney Olympic 4 Doumanis 44' pen, Chahine 55', 75', 82'
Northern Spirit 9 R Griffiths 13', 42', Kane 36', Monie 50', Brickel 62', Olic 70', Anter 71', 78', Culina 87'	Wollongong Colts 0
Northern Spirit Colts 1 Vasili 60'	Parramatta Power 5 Thompson 30', B Santalab 33', 54', 83', Campbell 57')
Sydney United 2 Jordan 16', 79'	Sydney Olympic 1 Seitis 80'
Syd. Olympic Academy 2 Sarmonikas 32', 35'	Sydney United Colts 1 Pearson 46'
Wollongong Wolves 3 Lahanas 6', 12', Dimech 27'	Marconi Stallions Colts 0
Marconi Stallions 6 Severino 1', 61' pen, 89', Last 65', Mondello 76', Gulesserian 88'	A.C.T.A.S. 0

VIS SUFFER FIRST LOSS

By Roy Hay

Fawkner scored the only goal of the game, the first of the year 2000, to beat South Melbourne at Smith Reserve in the Southern Division last Wednesday.

Substitute Robert Carmingiani came on after 63 minutes and scored eleven minutes later. Fawkner advanced down the right and when the cross came over, Carmingiani beat a couple of defenders before finishing accurately. It was a tightly fought match in hot conditions.

South Dandenong inflicted the first defeat of the season on the Victorian Institute of Sport at Grange Reserve on Saturday by two goals to one.

Evan Papadopoulos scored for the VIS in 25 minutes with a well placed and well struck free kick from the edge of the box. Six minutes later South Dandenong won a corner kick and in the following melee Christian Barra poked the ball home.

Nine minutes into the second half, South Dandenong's winner came when Mentor Memeti intercepted a pass in midfield and ran through the defence to score.

South thereafter defended well with skipper and sweeper Lirim Ibrahimovic outstanding. But it also showed its counter-attacking ability and had at least three one-on-ones with outstanding young 'keeper Adam Hrehoresin of the VIS who denied the attackers each time.

Gippsland Falcons beat the young Preston Lions by three goals to nil at Mobil Stadium. Ben Cassar scored the first and last goals in 42 and 87 minutes interspersed by one from Alex McDermid.

The Falcons were always in control with Cassar and Jonathan Buhagiar showing that they are clearly senior players in the making. The Lions forced several corners but could not maintain consistent pressure on the Falcons.

Melbourne Knights beat the Knights Academy by five goals to one on Sunday, but this was an open, attacking

game full of action and commitment by both teams and the referee had to be on his toes to keep the play under control.

The Academy had Brandon Vassallo and Michael Reda in its line-up and both the senior players should have scored from right in front of goal in the first five minutes. At 40 minutes however the pair combined when Vassallo rose at the far post to head home a Reda corner.

A minute after the break the Youth team was level when top scorer Antony Pelikan converted a cross from the right. Three minutes later his fiercely struck free kick flew through the wall to put his side ahead.

Carmelo Impiombato and Pelikan exchanged passes before the former scored the Youth's third goal in 75 minutes and four minutes after that Impiombato made it four. Deep into injury time Jasmin Sehic slalomed through a tiring defence from half-way to hammer in the best goal of the game.

Frank Dumic, Daniel Piorkowski and keeper Matthew McCarthy had excellent games for the Academy, while Sehic impressed with his constant running for the Youth.

Carlton's four-two win over Bulleen Inter at Mahoney's Reserve looks like a clear cut result, but it was far from that, with three goals scored in stoppage time at the end of the game.

Luigi Gullaci opened the scoring for Bulleen in the first half and it was not till there was only twenty minutes left that Carlton got on terms with the first of Daniel Debevc's two goals.

Daniel Vasilevski then scored from the penalty spot to put Carlton ahead, but when Berkan Sakaci scored as the game went into injury time, Bulleen seemed to have earned a point. But in a frantic few moments, Debevc and Joshua Kennedy scored for Carlton to steal the points.

MARCONI IN SIX GOAL THRASHING

By Theo Katsaros

A deferred fixture from Round 2 saw Sydney Olympic defeat the N.S.W.I.S. four goals to two despite trailing two-nil just before the break.

A Narbeh Avaness strike in the 7th minute and a goal to Matthew Engele after 41 minutes should have had the Institute in the box seat but a reply from the penalty spot after 44 minutes from Anthony Doumanis turned the tide.

A second half hat-trick to Ali Chahine gave Olympic another three points. Chahine scored in the 55th, 75th and 82nd minutes to ensure top spot on the ladder with a hard fought victory.

The goals poured in at Christie Park on Saturday as the Northern Spirit handed the Wollongong Wolves Colts a hiding. The nine-nil result is the highest winning margin of the season to date. The Spirit have found their scoring touch of late and are battling for a top four place.

The hosts led three-nil at the break and kept up the pressure in the second stanza to score a further six times. Ryan Griffiths and Peter Anter recorded doubles, whilst Deryk Kane, James Monie, David Brickel, Elvis Olic and Dean Culina scored singles.

The Parramatta Power continued the avalanche of goals at Christie Park by thumping the Northern Spirit Colts by five goals to one. The Power led four-nil through goals to Matt Thompson in the 30th minute, a Lachlan Campbell strike and a double to Brendan Santalab before the Colts replied.

Nicolas Vasili found the net after an hour to reduce the lead. The Power had the last say however, when Santalab completed his hat-trick when he netted again in the 83rd minute.

An upset on Sunday saw league leaders Sydney Olympic suffer their first loss of the season to an enthusi-

astic Sydney United. United's form this season has been patchy but they produced a fine performance to overwhelm their more fancied opponents.

Steve Jordan was the hero for Sydney United after finding the net twice in the 16th and 79th minutes. Chris Seitis came off the bench to score for Olympic ten minutes from time. The two-one win for United lifts them to mid-table.

At Wentworth Park, the Sydney Olympic Academy exacted some revenge by defeating the Sydney United Colts by two goals to one. Anthony Sarmonikas scored twice for the hosts. Michael Pearson scored the lone goal for the visitors.

The Wollongong Wolves scored a three-nil victory over the Marconi Stallions Colts. The Wolves led by the same score at half-time and maintained their lead throughout the second-half. Peter Lahanas scored after six minutes and struck one again six minutes later to record his third goal in two matches. Paul Dimech also found his name on the scoresheet for the Wolves.

The form team of the competition must surely be the Marconi Stallions. After securing the services of a number of A.I.S. graduates of late, the Stallions are definitely a title chance. Their six-nil demolition of the A.C.T.A.S. is their third big win on the trot.

Daniel Severino scored the third hat-trick of the weekend. The Stallions have scored 14 goals in their past three matches. Grant Last and Kevo Gulesserian scored for their new club whilst Anthony Mondello also found the net.

AUSSIE SCHOOLBOYS' SUCCESS IN UK

By Chris Conti

The 1999 Australian Schoolboys team arrived in England on the 1st December for a tough month of representative games, cold & wet weather and a gruelling fixture list designed to give the tourists the utmost test in terms of play on the field and travelling schedules.

That the results over the month of December were extremely good is a testament to the ability and stamina of the players and the skills of the coaching and back-up team. The touring party of 16 players (which included two goalkeepers) is also a relatively small squad for the tight schedule of games (eleven in twenty days), but gave the opportunity to give maximum playing time for all players.

On the day of arrival, the squad was transported to Swadlands School in Kent, and in the afternoon steady drizzle played the school team, which were in the semi-finals of the County Cup. The boys took a good 45 minutes to wake up and unwind after the long flight, but eventually won the game 3-1, with goals from Chad Mansley, David Tarka and Michael Ferrante.

Vice-captain Steve Martin seemed to have shrugged off the jet lag easiest and was the best player on the field.

On the following day the squad travelled to the East Coast and at the Pfizer Sports Ground in Sandwich played Kent Schools.

Tall and stylish centre back, Jason Dimozantos, was splendid in defence, and assisted the team to gain a 1-1 draw. Ryan Mitchell was the goalscorer in this game.

The rain had not stopped as the team trooped onto the field at the famous traditional Midland Bank pitch at Beckenham for the game against South East England Schools.

The SE England team included a number of boys who will be playing for England Schoolboys during the 2000 season, and this, coupled with the extremely slippery and sticky muddy pitch not usually found in Australia, provided the visitors with a stern test. At half time the team found itself 0-2 down.

However, in the second half the team rallied and fought back and was desperately unlucky not to score. Robert Gaspar, Martin, Paul Brownlie and Mitchell all put in excellent efforts which either hit the bar or post or were saved by the England goalie who also saved a penalty - but the final score remained 0-2.

On the first Saturday in December the squad was the guest of Wimbledon FC and attended the Wimbledon v Watford game in which Aussie Richard Johnson was the best player in a losing team.

On Sunday the team hit the road once again, for Wales, to play Boys Clubs of Wales at the Afon Lido ground.

In Wales it rained even more, but on a very muddy pitch the boys played some very skilful soccer to win 3-0. Goals to Steven Dimitrievski and captain Chad Mansley, with a brace, left a favourable impression on the gathered Welsh dignitaries.

After a day's break, the team played the first International of the Tour - against Welsh Colleges who had beaten Australia 2-1 earlier in the year at North Sydney Oval as a curtain-raiser to the Northern Spirit v Melbourne Knights game.

The game at Llanelli F.C.'s ground, Steboneth Park, was closer than the 3-0 scoreline indicates, but Mansley was in devastating form for his two goals and Mitchell's strike did not allow the Welsh

back into the game.

Five games into the tour and the squad started to take shape and players settled into their positions with team mates who two weeks before were mostly strangers. Goalkeepers Shane Maycock (SA) and Rade Kosanovic (ACT) shared the games and both displayed good technical abilities - Maycock stronger in the air, but Kosanovic bringing off excellent ground saves.

Robert Bresciano (Vic) played in every game as sweeper, and in fact estab-



lished a record by playing in every game on the tour without once being replaced - Bresciano took a little time to adapt to the British playing conditions, but his intuitive play and good covering qualities coupled with his vision and ability to find front runners with delicate chips and through balls, established the sweeper position as his own during the tour.

The centre back duties were usually shared by Jason Dimozantos, Steven Bichler and Paul Brownlie.

Dimozantos was superb in the air, Bichler was ruthless in his marking abilities and Brownlie offered the option of being used up front as well.

The wing back positions were covered by Lyndon Parry on the right and David Tarka on the left.

In midfield the options were numerous with a plethora of talented players.

Robert Gaspar a strong left-sided

Matt Jullienne had been a late call up into the team but he grabbed his chance quickly and with determination. By the middle of the tour, Jullienne had established himself as such a committed player, that he could not be left out. His tenacity and fighting spirit time and again rallied the team and as his self-belief grew so did his confidence to play.

The front players were Antony Ferrante, Ryan Mitchell and Chad Mansley.

Ferrante had to overcome an early injury and flu and only began to show his true ability and speed in the last four games, where he became the most feared attacker.

Mitchell scored consistently and struck up a very good combination early on with Mansley, often providing the set up for Mansley's goals. Mansley was the most consistent player and provided a deadly spear-head to the attack, as well as intelligently cutting back the opposition's options when the ball had been lost.

The squad moved to a base in Swansea, Wales and on 8th December travelled up to Manchester United's training ground in Salford to play their Academy team - this was the sixth game on tour and, yes, the sixth game played in the rain.

The journey from Swansea to Manchester was a long one and after twenty minutes into the game, the boys seemed to be still on the bus, and soon found themselves 0-2 down against a rampant United.

However, right on the whistle of half-time Australia got one back and in the second half, rallied by Mansley and others, the team stormed back into the game and took a 3-2 lead courtesy of two goals to Mansley and one to Dreger.

The Aussie schoolboys had stung the Red Devils who threw everything back the at the Aussies equalise. Kosanovic



Anthony Ferrante ... one of the outstanding players of the tour.

City won 4-1. (Both Alisop and Tiatto were on the bench for this game).

On the Monday the party were guests of Manchester United at Old Trafford and were given a guided tour of the dressing rooms and players areas as well as the amazing museum built under the stand.

The stadium is quite fantastic unlike the pitch itself which had been constructed - unsuccessfully - using an Australian method.

In the afternoon the team had to travel to Nuneaton in the Midlands for the game against England Colleges, and with snow and motorway delays the arrival time gave the team very little time to prepare for the game.

The late arrival meant that the team kept the Mayor of Nuneaton waiting, but after twenty minutes play - this time not in the rain, but in the sleet and bitter cold, - Mansley, Bresciano and Martin had all scored to give the team an astounding 3-0 lead. Unfortunately, the defence allowed England to sneak one before half-time, and in the second half Australia was on the back foot as they scored two more to make the final score 3-3, for the second game in succession.

On the following day more travel - this time from England to Ireland where the team was based in Dublin.

On the 15th December they travelled by coach up to Belfast and at the RUC Ground were introduced to the RUC Chief Constable before the game against Northern Ireland Schools, who were the Champions of Great Britain.

Ferrante was outstanding in this game and Mansley scored our goal in a very entertaining 1-1 draw. After the game the Northern Ireland Schools FA were the hosts at a Xmas Dinner at the RUC Club House.

Two days later the last International was played, in Dublin, against Ireland Schools and, finally, the rain had stopped. A thousand schoolkids had been given the afternoon off to see this game. The Irish Schools FA were also giving Ireland strips and footballs to the best banners and the group who could make the most noise, so the game was played in a very noisy and very parochial atmosphere.

It was a classic game and both teams played hard uncompromising but skilful football on a very soft pitch. Australia held a 1-0 lead for most of the game and Maycock made some fine saves in the Australian goal, but in the second half Ireland equalised and with seven minutes to go took the lead 2-1, to the wild delight of the schoolkids and the Irish team.

Continued Next page



player displayed great ball skills and ability to unlock a defence. Another strong left-sided player was the tireless Steve Martin who time and again won balls which he should never have had a chance to get and scored some classic free kick goals.

Daniel Dreger was a versatile player who saved his best performances for the second half of the tour and the Internationals.

Steven Dimitrievski battled hard in the engine room of the midfield and yearned for a hard pitch where his silky skills could be displayed to the best advantage. Like all the midfielders, Steven was learning that most games in the British mud are hard slogs for most of the time, and each game up to that point had been played in the rain.

pulled off a number of amazing saves to keep us in the game, but we could not hold out and Manchester United found an equaliser at the death.

The team was by now in excellent spirits, and with this extremely creditable draw in the bag, the return journey seemed to go much quicker.

The squad had a few days break mainly because it still had not stopped raining and the international against Welsh Schools had to be cancelled due to the ground being totally under water.

The squad then moved to Manchester and were able to enjoy the FA Cup 3rd Round as spectators at the Tranmere Rovers v West Ham game which Tranmere won 1-0, and the Chester City v Manchester City game which Man



Newcastle Breakers' Chad Mansley ... captain, top goalscorer and outstanding player of the tour.

Continued from Page 20

Then the fighting spirit of this team took over, and led by man of the match Jullienne, plus Dreger, Ferrante, Dimitrievski and Bresciano Australia equalised with two minutes to go.

The bench had settled for a draw, but right on time Ireland went ahead 3-2. From the kick off Australia attacked and, amazingly, forced the ball in - 3-3 now, three minutes into stoppage time, and you felt that if the game continued for another few minutes one team could grab the winner. The game did continue for two more minutes and Australia scored the winner, to the silence of the stunned crowd, except for half a dozen or so

ping in London, and on the Monday we rocked up for our final tour game against Fulham FC Academy.

Mr Al Fayed has used some of the profits from Harrods to provide Fulham with an excellent training set up for the Academy, and seems to want to provide even more funds for the development of the whole club.

Alan Smith, the Academy director, is running the set up in a very professional manner and makes no secret that the Australian Institute of Sport has been an influence in the programme.

Our game was in danger of being called off as the ice on the pitch was not being melted by the thin December sunlight.

However, the referee eventual-

ilar to other Australian Schoolboy teams of the past, who have provided a number of top quality NSL and senior International players later on.

The spirit shown by the team in very trying and foreign conditions was superb. The players were excellent ambassadors for Australian Soccer and their clubs, and the valuable experiences each player gained will add to their development as players and as individuals.

A number of the players were offered soccer scholarships with American Universities, and a number of the players would certainly have impressed the many scouts seen at the games.

The squad did not lack for scoring power and attractive play. In seven of the ten games we scored three goals or more. Mansley, who was undoubtedly, the Player of the Tour scored 12 goals.

This Australian Schoolboys Squad has now broken up and the players have returned to the NYL with their National League clubs or to pre-season training with their State League clubs. Most have now left school and will not be eligible for the 2000 Australian Schoolboys team which will be chosen at the National Championships in Darwin in August, and for which an exciting series of matches are planned for January 2001.

THE TOURING PARTY:

Shane Maycock (SA), Rade Kosanovic (ACT), David Tarka (WA)
Robert Bresciano (Vic), Jason Dimozantos (Vic), Steven Bichler (Vic), Lyndon Parry (SA), Paul Brownlie (QLD), Robert Gaspar (WA), Steven Dimitrievski (NSW), Matt Jullienne (ACT), Daniel Dreger (QLD), Steve Martin v.c (Vic), Ryan Mitchell (SA), Michael Ferrante (SA), Chad Mansley c (NSW).

OFFICIALS:

Chris James (NSW) Coach
Jim Gleeson (Vic) Assistant Coach
Alan Pradella (QLD) TeamMngr
Richard Beazley (ACT) Physio
Chris Conti (ACT) Tour Leader



Australian supporters and 21 delirious players and officials.

Once again the Irish FA hosted a sumptuous Xmas dinner and back at the hotel the players were allowed to celebrate the victory in the usual Irish manner.

There was another flight back to London the following morning, at an obscenely early time, and some of the squad made it to Loftus Road for an entertaining 0-0 draw between QPR and Charlton Athletic. Aussie George Kulcsar came on as substitute for QPR.

The remainder of the weekend was spent sightseeing and shop-

ly gave the go ahead and we kicked off at 11.45 am. Both teams treated the interested observers to an excellent contest given the conditions, and fittingly Australia won the game 3-2.

By the time the game had finished the pitch had virtually become like a skating rink, but the team voted Daniel Dreger the best Australian on the pitch - amazing really as Dreger, a Queenslander, would seldom have seen ice let alone played football on it.

The statistics of the tour are very complimentary - played 10, won 5, drew 4, lost 1. It is very sim-

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS FIJI BOUND

The Australian Schoolboys Soccer team flew out of Sydney on Monday for a four match tour of Fiji. The matches are all internationals against the Fiji Under 20 team (Wednesday 19th in Nadi and Saturday 22nd in Ba) twice and one each against the Under 17s (Monday 24th in Suva) and Under 18s (Tuesday 25th in Suva).

The squad gathered in Sydney on Saturday for a two day training camp before their Monday morning departure.

Nine of the team were also members of the Australian team that beat New Zealand in the Trans Tasman Challenge played in Brisbane during early September.

Tour Leader Alan Pradella and physio Richard Beazley are backing up after returning from the previous Australian team's 4-week tour of the United Kingdom just before Christmas.

FULL SQUAD:

1 Nathan Minter (Qld), 2 Nick Budin (SA), 3 James Kemp (NSW), 4 Nathan Woodbridge (Qld), 5 Luke Morgan (ACT), 6 Luca Lucchesi (SA), 7 John Fotiadis (NSW), 8 Drew Oberle (Qld), 9 Thien Vinh (NT), 10 Orhan Dincer (NSW), 11 Matthew Low (Qld), 12 Mark Lipman (WA), 14 Nathan Thompson (Qld), 15 Michael Gleeson (Vic), 16 Sam Banks (NT), 18 Michael Negropontis (Qld)

OFFICIALS:

Brendon Fotheringham (Coach - NSW), Alan Pradella (Tour Leader - Qld), Dave Storey (Manager - NSW), Richard Beazley (Physio - ACT).

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Marcus Phillips: 'Olympic will win the title'

Continued from page three

M.P. There is very little coverage of Australian football in the UK, which is to be expected so I didn't really know much about the game when I arrived for the 1997/98 N.S.L. season.

Ironically, the British game receives more coverage in Australia than the local game, which is an indication we have a long way to go before the Australian sporting public will take it seriously.

My biggest criticisms of the game in Australia are, the lack of media coverage, questionable refereeing standards and the absence of total full professionalism in the game.

It's ludicrous that some clubs are full professional and others operate with a few full timers and the rest part time. There is also a big discrepancy between wages at some clubs even among part time players.

How can you expect players to train six or seven times a week and still call them part time?

Until these issues are sorted out, the progress of the sport will be hampered.

R.S. You've played with Sydney United, Marconi and Sydney Olympic. How do the clubs compare?

M.P. At Sydney United there was great harmony at the club despite the fact we only trained two or three times a week and finances were tight. Davie Mitchell and Lawrie McKinna managed to maintain a high level of team spirit despite the problems at the club.

Marconi is undoubtedly the most professional club in Australia and everything is done for you. Certainly you'd never have to look after your kit like we did at Sydney United.

Sydney Olympic doesn't have the

flourishing licensed club like Marconi but the club and its patrons are committed to a professional set up and the long-term success of the club.

R.S. How do you compare the coaches you've played under at the three clubs?

M.P. Davie Mitchell has an amazing ability to relate to players, which means he can get the best out of them. He has a big advantage over some coaches because Lawrie McKinna as a right hand man is totally involved with decision making and management of the team in training and off the park.

Last year at Marconi I witnessed the determination of Frank Farina and if we don't make the next World Cup, nobody will be able to accuse Frank of lack of effort.

Branko Culina is obsessed with football and his study of tactics and the knowledge he has of opposing teams is hard to beat. This is certainly one of the keys to our success in the current season.

R.S. How do you rate the standard of the NSL?

M.P. There are some good individual performers in the League but there aren't enough to go round for the fifteen clubs so I support the reduction to twelve teams. You may have forty extra players floating round but it will create fierce competition for selection, which can only improve the standard of the game.

I was certainly surprised by South Melbourne's strong showing in Brazil

although they didn't win a game. Yet, look at the strength of the clubs they were playing like Manchester United whose professionalism is light years ahead of the Australian game.

Another criticism I have of the NSL is the way young players are thrust into the first team and expected to perform miracles without adequate preparation. In the UK, players are only elevated to the first



Marcus Phillips tussles with Nick Sabljak of Adelaide Force earlier this season.

team squad when they've completed their apprenticeship and are fully prepared technically, tactically, physically and mentally for the rise in standard.

R.S. Olympic is having a great season. To what do you attribute the team's success and can you win the title?

M.P. The team spirit in the squad is phenomenal as players are playing for each other in training and on match day. Lately we have been affected by the absence of key players like Arambasic, Emerton, Thomas and Tsekenis but hopefully our poor results against Perth and

Newcastle were only a minor aberration

However, it's a pretty strong team, which can call on the services of Tome, Carle and Kalantzis as replacements.

Of course Pablo Cardozo has continued his great form from last season and although he's not scoring as many goals, he consistently hits the target nine out of ten times.

One shouldn't forget our unsung heroes at the back. Juric, Baillie, Zoricich and Wilson have all been a tower of strength this season.

Barring injuries, and with a full squad available I believe we're a good bet to take out the title.

R.S. Do you think the people running Australian football are sufficiently qualified to take the game into a new era of professionalism, and do you see yourself playing a part in the future of the game?

M.P. I have met some knowledgeable people but there are too many people associated with the game who offer uneducated opinions about the way that the game should be run. These people have only experienced the Australian system and have no idea as to how the game is

run in Europe. Their narrow-minded attitudes do nothing to assist the progress of the game.

At the end of the season my contract is up but I'm hoping the club will retain my services. As I'm on a sporting visa I can only remain in Australia while I'm contracted to a club.

I really enjoy the lifestyle so I'm hoping I can stay longer and contribute in some way to the development of the game, but who knows what the future holds?

CROOKY

The next two matches in the National Soccer League should be very interesting with the peculiar draw seeing teams play the same side twice in five days.

Northern Spirit plays Carlton at Olympic Park on Friday night before welcoming them to North Sydney Oval on Australia Day for a return clash.

It will be tough for most teams, especially with the tactical part of the game, which has become so important in modern times.

Do coaches hold something back for the first game? Will some teams treat it like a home and away series? Will some sides play for a draw away in the first game and then come out firing with a different style in the return match? Will it make a difference?

Northern Spirit's games against Carlton in that period is looming as very pivotal to our season.

Carlton is traveling well, inside the top six, so if we can come out on top it will give us the impetus to move forward.

If we can't match it with Carlton, we may fall too far off the pace as far as the top six is concerned.

History is certainly on our side.

Last year we defeated Carlton 2-1 at Optus Oval and then backed it up with a 3-1 win at North Sydney Oval.

The 2-1 win was actually our first win as a club and was one of the turning points, even though it was very early, for our glorious debut season.



ous debut season.

Of course a lot has changed since then and we know we are going to have our backs up against them over the two matches.

Carlton has started very well while we have taken some time to get out rhythm. Recent performances show that we are almost back to where we were last year but because of our bad start we need to be doing better than most teams.

While playing Carlton twice in two days is a little abnormal we have the advantage of having to do the same last season when we played Marconi three times in succession towards the end of the year.

After the meeting in the last game of the year we saddled up again for two matches in the semi-final series. We learned a lot about ourselves, and Marconi, during those three matches and hopefully that will hold us in good stead for the matches against Carlton.

The main thing though, is to perform well on the field and we are ready for the challenge!

Ian Crook
Northern Spirit and England

AUSSIE COACH CROSS PART OF INTERNATIONAL PANEL

Silver medal winning assistant Joeys coach, and coach of the NSW Institute of Sport team, Kelly Cross, is to join a prestigious international panel on football development for young players at a convention of the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) in Baltimore this week.

Along with Jurgen Klinsmann (Bayern Munich youth coach), Charlie Cook (Coerver USA) and Alf Galustian (Coerver International), Kelly will participate in a panel discussion on 'Coerver Coaching - a Global Perspective to Youth Development'.

The NSCAA is the largest single-sport coaching organisation in the United States with more than 14,600 members. It is dedicated to promoting the game of soccer and to the education of coaches. More than 3,000 coaches from the United States and around the world are expected to attend.

Cross said he was "honoured" to be included on the panel.

"I see it as recognition of the efforts of both the NSW system and, of course, Australia. Our efforts in New Zealand [at the Under 17 World Cup]

have obviously been noticed."

Coerver Coaching is the method of coaching based on the work of former European Championship-winning coach, Weil Coerver, which emphasises building individual skill as the basis for development of talented young players.

"It has been the basis for elite player development within New South Wales for almost a decade, and has helped us to have a constant and regular production line of quality players for national teams at all levels from the State," said Cross.

In the most recent Joeys team - which narrowly missed out on the Gold Medal at the World Under 17 Championship - there were seven New South Wales' players, including captain Mark Byrnes and goalkeeping sensation, Jess Van Stratten.

"Obviously, I also hope to learn something by attending the Convention and networking with other coaches - and it goes without saying that the opportunity to talk one-on-one with someone like Jurgen Klinsmann is a fantastic opportunity," Cross said.

BEING IVAN VICELICH

What if you found a room in your office that went inside the mind of Ivan Vicelich? Sounds like a good idea for a movie, but until then, here are some thoughts from the Kingz' big New Zealand defender. Aidan Ormond asks the questions.

Ivan, by many judges here you have been one of the stars of the Kingz so far. Are you happy with your season's form and your side's progress thus far?

Yes, so far I am very happy with my form, but I can still see a lot of room for improvement, as for the team we got off to a shaky start as our preparation was not ideal, but we have come together well and are starting to put in some good performances.

We know you are from Central Utd, could you describe that club and the league it plays in, and what is the standard of Kiwi domestic soccer like compared to NSL?

Central Utd was founded in 1962 by Croatian immigrants, they have slowly progressed over the years through the various leagues before they finally reached the NZ National League.

The club has always been passionately supported and enjoyed its largest success in recent years, winning the National League in 1998, the Chatham Cup in '97 and '98 (the equivalent of the FA Cup.) The league Central plays in consists of 10 teams nation wide and would compare to the Australian State League.

Have you always been a defender who likes to get forward? Do you model your game on anyone?

Yes, I like getting forward, creating chances and scoring goals. As for modeling my game on anyone there is no-one in

particular but players who have inspired me are Maradona, Baggio and Boban.

Which players so far have impressed you and what do you think of the NSL's standard?

I have been impressed so far with the high standard and can see how it has been a stepping stone for so many players to Europe.

Do you think an NZ side could ever beat the Aussies and qualify for the WCC?

Yes, as NZ soccer is continually developing due to implementation of a new national league. Success has already been seen at national level by qualifying for the Confederations Cup which can only aid the development at club level.

Also by playing qualifying tournaments in countries where pitch and weather conditions are a major factor on the day anything can happen.

How are the Kingz going as a club? Is there good media interest? Do you do much promotion for the organization?

So far I think the club is going as best as they can. The media interest was at its peak around the first game and has slightly declined. Hopefully this will increase with good results from us players on the field and in turn will increase crowd

attendances.

We do the odd promotional activity for the club.

It has been noted that your pre-season was somewhat ordinary, will that be rectified next season and do you think it has affected your side's fitness levels so far?

Yes our pre-season was a bit underprepared but I believe this was due to the late decision of the club being accepted into the NSL and then the rush of recruiting players which won't be so much of a factor next season.

Our fitness hasn't been affected as we have shown in many of our earlier games that we are able to finish stronger than the opposition with late equalizers etc.

How is the constant flying to Australia? Has the novelty of flying international every second week worn off and do you have a favourite ground to play on?

The travel to Australia has become second nature. We know when we play away that we have a job to do we fly, sleep, play and return. So far I am very impressed with Adelaide Force's ground, its upgrade has made it into a very good stadium.

At Inside Soccer we have been sharply critical of some of the refereeing this season. Are we being over-critical or do you feel there is a problem?

It is hard for me to say, sometimes they are right, sometimes wrong, but they



Ivan Vicelich (right) with Chris Jackson after one of their Confederations Cup matches in 1999.



Kingz given 6/10 by NZ press



A report in the NZ-based Sunday Star Times has given NSL rookie club the Football Kingz a 6/10 mark for their season so far in the NSL.

Sitting just outside the six going into last weekend, the report by Mark Hinton, added a note of caution in its school style précis of the last few months.

He wrote that: "... for someone so new to this institution, both attitude and aptitude has been pleasing. Has shown some inconsistency and at times has been a little slow on the uptake, but this has been expected. Keep up the good work."

Appraisal:

"A place in the middle of the class has been a good achievement. If progress continues at this pace, then we can expect you soon to be scoring top marks."

"Be warned: complacency must be avoided."

Mark: 6/10

"The players are more focused

away from home and that's something we've got to look at," said co-coach Shane Rufer to the paper.

"If you're playing in Australia, you're at the airport say 18 hours before the game, everyone's dressed up, together, on the bus, going through immigration, on the plane - all these things make the players more focused.

"We've got to try to work on that for sure. I think we've got probably the best facility in the league here (at North Harbour Stadium), but we just have to maximise the following. It still amazes me how low profile the game is here."

Seems there is still a long way to go before the Rugby public - used to the global successes of the All-Blacks - will fully embrace the Kingz.

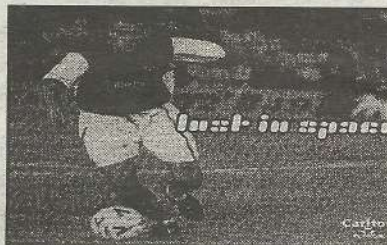
Then again, it may be just an Auckland thing?

WIN A FREE SOCCER CD BY LUST IN SPACE

This fantastic CD by the band Lust in Space is out now and it has already received airplay on Melbourne and national radio. The Carlton track is called 'A Dream won't do' and it has a brilliant Oasis sound to it. For your chance to win this CD cut out and send this ad to Inside Soccer at PO BOX 3889 PARRAMATTA NSW 2124. You can enter as many times as you like, the more entries the more chance you have of winning (photocopies not accepted). The first correct answer drawn on January 31, 2000 will win: winner announced in the Feb 1 issue.

QUESTION: WHICH CARLTON PLAYER WAS ONCE A TEAMMATE WITH RONALDO?

Answer: _____



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

Who is Matthew Kemp?

Inside Soccer's Daniela Raco finds out

Selection can be tough. Trying to make the grade in a team laden with talent, and that has forged a reputation for success can be even tougher. Matthew Kemp of Adelaide Force is among the young brigade of emerging talent in this country. He has made the grade, and is playing alongside names like Tobin, Mori, Vidmar, and Co. Having just settled into his bachelor pad with two illustrious teammates, Matthew spares a few moments to talk success, phonebills, and seafood!

WHO IS MATTHEW KEMP?

Someone determined to succeed both on and off the pitch.

WHAT FORMER CLUBS HAVE YOU PLAYED FOR?

ATS, ACT Academy of Sport, and local Canberra teams.

SUCCESSFUL ATHLETES REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF GOALS. TO SET A GOAL GIVES YOU DIRECTION, IT GIVES YOU A POINT TO AIM FOR. MATTHEW, WHAT IS YOUR MISSION IN SOCCER?

To play professionally overseas and in Australia.

DO YOU HAVE ASPIRATIONS TO BREAK INTO EUROPEAN FOOTBALL?

Absolutely. Within the next couple of years I hope to head to Europe on trials.

AUSTRALIAN SOCCER STALWARTS SUCH AS ALEX TOBIN AND THE RECENTLY RETIRED MILAN IVANOVIC, HAVE THROUGHOUT THEIR CAREERS ACHIEVED BOTH NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. THEY ARE OF PROVEN QUALITY, AND ARE THE STANDOUT STARS OF OUR GAME. WHAT WORDS OF WISDOM HAVE THEY INSTILLED IN YOU, TO GUIDE YOU CLEAR OF THE MURKY WATERS?

We have Zoran for that. Alex is a

player with years of experience to pass on to the young boys. He tells us to work hard every session.

TO BE A GOOD FOOTBALLER YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY IN ANY POSITION. MATTHEW YOU ARE A PROVEN DEFENDER, BUT HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT POPPING ON THE LOVES AND TRYING YOUR HAND IN GOALS, OR WOULD YOU PERHAPS PREFER THE GLORY OF GOALSCORING?

Definitely the glory of goalscoring. But, I wouldn't mind pulling of the gloves and showing the keeper a thing or two!

WITH A FEW GOOD WINS UP YOUR SLEEVE IN RECENT WEEKS, WHAT HAS BROUGHT ABOUT THE MUCH AWAITED TURNAROUND ON FORM?

We had a meeting before the Northern Spirit game, and things have picked up since then. Lately the way we have been training is the way we have been playing on the pitch.

IN ONE WORD DESCRIBE ZORAN MATIC

THE MAN? Competitive (particularly in table tennis)

THE COACH? Experienced.

IS THERE A SOCCER PLAYER THAT YOU MODEL YOUR GAME ON?

Little bits from different players.

WHO AND WHAT INSPIRES YOU?

Success - to be the best.

BEST GOALKEEPER IN THE LEAGUE?

Vilson Knezevic.

BEST STRIKER IN THE LEAGUE?

Mile Sterjevski of Parra Power.

IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE A BALANCE TO BE ABLE TO PLAY WELL ON THE PARK. WHAT ARE SOME OF MATTHEW KEMP'S OFF-FIELD PASTIMES?

Sleeping and going to the beach.

YOU HAVE SET UP HOUSE WITH TWO FORMER COSMOS PLAYERS - VILSON KNEZEVIC AND IVAN ZELIC. LIFE MUST BE ONE BIG PARTY IN THIS BACHELOR PAD AT THE MOMENT.

I can't give too much away.

ANY ADVICE FOR ANYONE PLANNING TO MOVE IN WITH FELLOW TEAMMATES?

Make sure they can cook first and be prepared for a lot of laughs.

ANY DRAWBACKS?

No really.....apart from Ivan's video selection "The Wish Master".

CAN YOU SHED SOME LIGHT ON ANY OF THEIR BAD HABITS?

We're all slob. Lucky the cleaning lady comes on once a week.

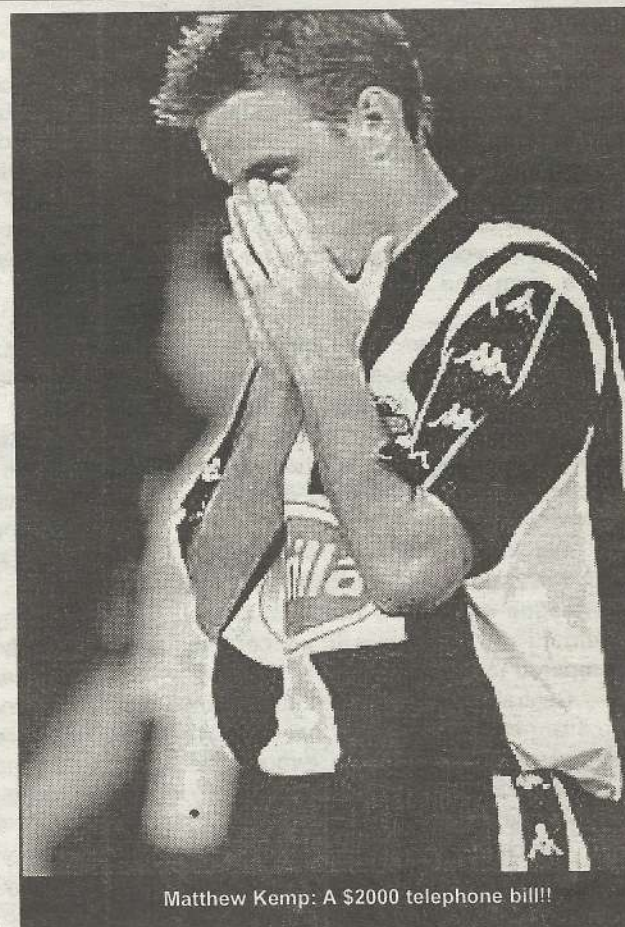
VILSON 'CLAIMS' TO BE QUITE A GOOD SEAFOOD CHEF. HAVE YOU FRIED ANY OF HIS POPULAR CUISINES?

He hasn't cooked a meal since he's been here! The only seafood Vilson eats is at a restaurant.

I HEARD THAT YOU HAVE HAD YOUR TELEPHONE DISCONNECTED RECENTLY. WHO'S THE CULPRIT? WAS SOMEONE DIALLING THE LATE-NITE ADULT LINE ONCE TOO OFTEN?

We have our suspicions. Someone clocked up a \$2000 phone bill.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE THE PER-



Matthew Kemp: A \$2000 telephone bill!!

SONAL GROOMING HABITS OF YOUR TEAMMATES. WHO IS MOST LIKELY TO DO A LAST MINUTE CHECK OF THE HAIR BEFORE A GAME, AND WHO HAS AN ENDLESS SUPPLY OF GEL IN HIS SPORTSBAG?

Ivan Zelic: he likes to look his best.

IF YOU COULD HAVE ANY SUPER-NATURAL POWER WHAT WOULD IT BE?

X-ray vision.

THE JOEY WITH A POINT TO PROVE

By Aidan Ormond

Amid all the justifiable backslapping and congratulations following the Joeys' World Cup campaign in New Zealand, Anthony Doumanis was hurting.

The exciting attacking midfielder from Sydney Olympic played in two of the lead-up games on the Joeys' South American tour, and, perhaps with the confidence of youth, felt he would be called upon in New Zealand. He wasn't, and he feels bitter.

"I don't know why. I wish I could have had a long talk with 'Boss' (Les Scheinflug) ... I personally thought I deserved a spot."

Doumanis - who turns 18 this week - candidly admitted that his confidence was down as a result of being on the sidelines for Australia's best ever finish in a tournament. But he is absolutely committed to proving Scheinflug's decision was a poor call.

"I want to prove Les Scheinflug wrong - that is one of my big ambitions in

life and I will work like a dog to prove him wrong," added the well-spoken teenager.

But it's not all negativity in the life of Anthony Doumanis; his form with Olympic has been encouraging (he scored against Newcastle recently and on the weekend) and he was offered a place at Southampton, something that boosted his confidence no end.

"Southampton have been very good to me. I think in perhaps another year if they make another offer I may go, I just feel I need to establish myself more here and prove a point," in an obvious reference to Scheinflug.

"Perhaps I will move overseas in the next one to two years," he noted.

Doumanis - who came through Sydney Olympic's U/13s to U/15s - has however some great memories of that Joeys campaign.

"We arrived as underdogs, but once we played Brazil in the group game we knew we could match the best. The Germany and Mali matches once again proved us right and we knew we could beat Qatar because we played and beat

them before the Bahrain qualifier.

"You gotta hand to Scheinflug however, we were the best prepared side there," he said magnanimously.

"And Mark Byrnes is a terrific athlete."

Word has it that the USA - who were beaten by the young Aussies in the semi-final - had a 77-game lead-up.

"The final has mixed emotion for me," said Doumanis, a keen fan of the Brazilian style of play.

"I was ecstatic about reaching the final, but very, very disappointed to miss out," he said with more than a hint of sadness.

Doumanis has been exciting fans with his style at Olympic - he reminds me a little of another player from Bronte in Sydney's east: Olyroo Nick Rizzo.

"Yeah, as a player I love going forward, entertaining the crowd. Perhaps I could work on my defensive capability but I am a typical creative midfielder who likes to take on players."

Many players, including Soccerroo legend Robbie Slater, have used their bit-



Sydney Olympic youngster
Anthony Doumanis

terness over non-selection in the early stages of their career to spur them on.

Doumanis has - like a number of players his age - the talent to do well.

Only time will tell if he can prove Scheinflug wrong.

HENRY STARS AS ARSENAL THUMP SUNDERLAND

Arsenal took advantage of a day off for the Premiership's top two teams as they crushed Sunderland 4-1.

A goal from Thierry Henry after three minutes - the fastest of the day in England - put Arsene Wenger's men in front and they never looked back.

The Frenchman then turned provider to set up Davor Suker who hit a screaming volley past Thomas Sorensen after 27 minutes and five minutes later tapped in with Henry again the provider to make it 3-0.

Shell-shocked Sunderland started the second half well when the returning Niall Quinn pulled a goal back after 46 minutes.

But the lightning Henry had the final word with the fourth nine minutes from time to move Arsenal within a point of leaders Leeds.

They are level on points with second-placed Manchester United.

Liverpool took advantage of Sunderland's woes by moving into fourth with a 3-2 win at struggling Watford.

Reds boss Gerard Houllier was almost left kicking himself after his side let slip a two-goal lead.

Patrik Berger put the Merseysiders in front with after 10 minutes at Vicarage Road after good work by Michael Owen.

David Thompson converted a free-kick four minutes before the interval to strengthen their grip on the game.

But almost immediately Richard Johnson gave the Hornets a glimmer of hope by pulling a goal back and new £1.5m icelander Hreidar Helguson pulled the Hornets level a minute into the second half.

It needed a first Premiership goal from Czech sub Vladimir Smicer to snatch all three points for the Anfield men.

Bottom club Sheffield Wednesday also earned some valuable points when they beat Yorkshire rivals Bradford City 2-0.

Owls boss Danny Wilson, told to go by a group of local MPs 24 hours earlier, saw his side waste a hatful of chances in the first half.

But seven minutes after the interval Swede Niclas Alexandersson grabbed the vital opener and an own goal by Bantams defender Andy O'Brien clinched victory 15 minutes later.

The best result from a struggling side came at Middlesbrough where Derby continued their recent mini-revival with a 4-1 victory.

Out-of-sorts Boro were gunned down by Malcolm Christie who opened the scoring after just eight minutes and sealed an

emphatic display with the third just before the hour mark.

In between Deon Burton added the second before Andy Campbell added a consolation for the home side after 71 minutes.

Craig Burley rubbed salt into the wounds with the fourth a minute from time and Boro were roundly booed off at the end.

Everton, unbeaten at home since last April, almost lost that record to bogey side Tottenham before snatching a 2-2 draw.

Kevin Campbell notched his 10th of the season, heading home Don Hutchison's cross after 22 minutes.

But within seconds Tottenham were level when Chris Armstrong took advantage of good work by Sol Campbell and then David Ginola's shot took a wicked deflection to give the Londoners the lead at a ground where the Londoners have lost only two of their last 16 visits.

But recent signing from America Joe Max Moore grabbed a vital equaliser for the Toffees in injury-time.

West Ham, dumped out of the Worthington Cup by Aston Villa in midweek, were almost beaten again by the same player, Ian Taylor.

The lanky midfielder struck after 24 minutes to add to the two he grabbed in that controversial Cup win four days earlier.

But Paolo Di Canio grabbed a point with an equaliser 12 minutes from time.

Unsettled Gianfranco Zola made his 150th appearance for Chelsea but the Blues' Premiership problems continued when they were held at home 1-1 by Leicester.

Gerry Taggart headed the visitors in front after 41 minutes and though Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli fielded Zola alongside new loan signing George Weah, they struggled to break down the stubborn Foxes until Dennis Wise popped up with an 85th-minute equaliser.

Coventry, without Moroccan aces Mustapha Hadji and Youssef Chippo, cantered to a 2-0 win over Wimbledon.

Skipper Gary McAllister set them on the road to victory just before the hour mark from the penalty spot.

And Irish international Robbie Keane wrapped up the points 16 minutes from time.

In the Sunday game Newcastle United flew out of the blocks to rock Southampton with two goals inside three minutes as Duncan Ferguson headed home after Alan Shearer's effort had hit the bar, and then drove a shot into the bottom corner 77 seconds later.

Nolberto Solano collected a third to

cap a magnificent individual display, and an own goal from Richard Dryden made it four with barely half an hour gone.

Nikos Dabizas made it five with a deflected shot to equal United's biggest home win against the Saints.

Charlton moved four points clear of the chasing pack at the top of the First Division with their sixth successive win on Saturday.

A 13th-minute goal from Graham Stuart was enough to see off battling Crewe at The Valley.

Ipswich kept on the leaders' heels with a much more convincing 3-0 victory over bottom club Swindon.

Mike Stockwell got the show on the road after 27 minutes and young striker Richard Naylor, with goals in the 37th and 82nd minutes, sealed the win at Portman Road.

Barnsley took the points at Selhurst Park as Dave Bassett visited one of his former clubs, Crystal Palace.

Two goals in the first 15 minutes was enough to bring a 2-0 win despite having David Tuttle sent off for deliberate handball.

Bruce Dyer ran on to a through-ball to grab the first and Darren Barnard converted a penalty for his 12th goal of the season.

Huddersfield's slide continued with a 2-0 defeat at Blackburn, the club rejuvenated by Tony Parkes.

Damien Duff put Rovers in front after 29 minutes and Damien Johnson added the killer goal a minute before the break.

Cup heroes Tranmere found the bread and butter of league football less inspiring and a 0-0 draw with Stockport did little for either club.

But County will be cheered to see QPR, on their heels in the chase for the play-offs, go down to their first defeat at home.

A Claus Jensen goal after 64 minutes gave Bolton a 1-0 win at Loftus Road.

Walsall came from behind to jump two places up the table with a 2-1 win over Sheffield United, who were losing in the league for the first time under Neil Warnock.

Paul Devlin gave the Blades the lead after 26 minutes but Ray Graydon's half-time pep talk did the trick and Adrian Vivesash, after 58 minutes, and Mark Robins (82) pulled off a hard-earned win.



Two goals each ... Suker and Henry

Portsmouth, under new manager Tony Pulis, were imagining better times ahead when Sammy Igoe and former Wolves striker Steve Claridge put them two ahead against Wolves.

But Steve Sedgley pulled one back after 73 minutes, Michael Branch equalised 12 minutes later and Ade Akinbiyi made it 3-2 in the last minute to pull off a sensational win for the Black Country club.

Grimsby and Nottingham Forest produced a thriller at Blundell Park where the visitors finished with nine men and on the wrong end of a 4-3 scoreline.

Jack Lester and Lee Ashcroft put Town two up, only for Alan Rogers and a Mark Lever own goal to leave things all square after 47 minutes.

Then Jon Olav Hjelde was sent off for a professional foul, Ashcroft banged in a 67th-minute penalty and Kevin Donovan looked to have made the game safe with Forest keeper Dave Beasant joining Hjelde for an early bath.

Rogers bagged his second in the dying minutes to set up a dramatic finish but the Mariners held on for victory.

Birmingham were back to winning ways with two goals from Martin Grainger giving them a 2-0 victory over Norwich.

The Canaries had goalkeeper Andy Marshall sent off for handling outside the penalty area.

West Brom and Port Vale ended goalless in the West Midlands derby.

Arsenal (3) 4 Sunderland (0) 1

Arsenal: Seaman, Dixon, Keown, Silvinho, Luzhny, Parlour, Vieira, Petit, Ljungberg (Maiz 31), Henry (Barrett 83), Suker.
Subs Not Used: Winterburn, Manninger, Hughes.

Goals: Henry 3, Suker 27, 32, Henry 81.

Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin (Williams 61), Bould, Butler, Gray, Summerbee (Kilbane 71), McCann, Roy, Schwarz, Phillips, Quinn.

Subs Not Used: Marriott, Rae, Craddock.

Booked: Makin, Roy.

Goals: Quinn 46.

Att: 38,039

Ref: P Alcock (Halstead).

Chelsea (0) 1 Leicester (1) 1

Chelsea: De Goey, Ferrer (Flo 64), Thome, Leboeuf, Harley, Petrescu (Poyet 46), Deschamps (Ambrosetti 46), Wise, Di Matteo, Zola, Weah.

Subs Not Used: Cudicini, Terry.

Goals: Wise 85.

Leicester: Arphexad, Sinclair, Elliott, Taggart, Gilchrist, Eadie, Zagorakis, Oakes, Gunnlaugsson (Guppy 51), Marshall (Fenton 37), Heskey.

Subs Not Used: Flowers, Thomas, Stewart.

Booked: Fenton.

Goals: Taggart 41.

Att: 35,063

Ref: G Barber (Tring, Herts).

Coventry (0) 2 Wimbledon (0) 0

Coventry: Hedman, Telfer, Williams, Breen, Froggatt, Eustace, McAllister, Palmer, Whelan, Roussel (Normann 81), Keane.

Subs Not Used: Ogrizovic, Konjic, Strachan, Gustafsson.

Goals: McAllister 56 pen, Keane 74.

Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Andersen, Hreidarsson, Francis (Gray 80), Kimble, Earle, Ardley, Andresen, Euell (Badir 80), Cort.

Subs Not Used: Davis, Willmott, Hughes.

Att: 19,012

Ref: Steve Bennett (Orpington).

Everton (1) 2 Tottenham (2) 2

Everton: Gerrard, Unsworth (Ball 81), Watson, Dunne, Weir, Pembroke, Hutchison, Collins, Barnby, Jeffers (Moore 82), Campbell.

Subs Not Used: Ward, Gemmill, Simonsen.

Booked: Barnby, Hutchison, Watson.

Goals: Campbell 22, Moore 90.

Tottenham: Walker, Edinburgh (Young 81), Perry, Campbell, Carr, Ginola (Nielsen 68), Clemence, Sherwood, Anderton, Armstrong, Iversen.

Subs Not Used: Baardsen, Korsten, Fox.

Booked: Edinburgh, Sherwood, Clemence, Nielsen.

Goals: Armstrong 24, Ginola 28.

Att: 36,144

Ref: A Wiley (Walsall).

Middlesbrough (0) 1 Derby (1) 4

Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Stockdale (Maddison 46), Festa, Pallister, Vickers, Fleming, Mustoe, Ince, Juninho, Ricard, Armstrong (Campbell 46).

Subs Not Used: Gascoigne, Beresford, Marinelli.

Goals: Campbell 71.

Derby: Poom, Schnoor, Carbonari, Elliott, Delap, Burley, Powell, Bohinen (Nimni 60), Johnson, Christie (Kinkladze 76), Burton.

Subs Not Used: Hoult, Boertien, Robinson.

Booked: Johnson, Carbonari, Powell.

Goals: Christie 8, Burton 47, Christie 59, Burley 90.

Att: 32,745

Ref: M Halsey (Welwyn Garden City).

Sheff Wed (0) 2 Bradford (0) 0

Sheff Wed: Smicek, Nolan, Atherton, Walker, Hinchcliffe, Alexandersson (Donnelly 70), Jonk, Haslam, Quinn, Sibon, De Bilde.

Subs Not Used: Pressman, Sonner, Cresswell, Staniforth.

Goals: Alexandersson 52, O'Brien 67 og.

Bradford: Clarke, Halle, Wetherall, O'Brien, Myers, Lawrence, McCall (Windass 72).

Redfern, Beagrie (Mills 59), Saunders, Blake.

Subs Not Used: Westwood, Sharpe, Davison.

Att: 24,682

Ref: J Winter (Stockton-on-Tees).

Watford (1) 2 Liverpool (2) 3

Watford: Chamberlain, Gibbs, Palmer, Page, Robinson, Lytle (Smith 82), Miller, Johnson (Bonnot 88), Perpetuini, Helguson (Ngongne 80), Gravelaine.

Subs Not Used: Day, Gudmundsson.

Booked: Johnson.

Goals: Johnson 44, Helguson 46.

Liverpool: Westerveld, Carragher, Henchoz, Hyypia, Matteo, Thompson, Gerrard, Hamann (Smicer 62), Berger, Owen (Murphy 72), Camara (Staunton 84).

Subs Not Used: Nielsen, Traore.

Booked: Hyypia, Hamann, Henchoz, Matteo.

Goals: Berger 10, Thompson 41, Smicer 71.

Att: 21,367

Ref: S Lodge (Barnsley).

West Ham (0) 1 Aston Villa (1) 1

West Ham: Hislop, Ferdinand, Stimac, Margas, Sinclair, Lomas, Lampard, Cole, Keller, Wanchope, Di Canio.

Subs Not Used: Forrest, Minto, Carrick, Charles, Ruddock.

Booked: Stimac.

Goals: Di Canio 78.

Aston Villa: James, Ehiogu, Southgate, Barry, Stone, Taylor, Merson, Boateng (Calderwood 79), Wright, Carbone (Vassell 79), Joachim.

Subs Not Used: Cutler, Thompson, Delaney.

Goals: Taylor 24.

Att: 24,237

Ref: G Poll (Tring).

Newcastle (4) 5 Southampton (0) 0

Newcastle: Harper, Barton (Hughes 84), Marcelino, Dabizas, Pistone, Solano (Ketsbaia 80), Dyer, Speed, Gallacher (Domi 76), Shearer, Ferguson.

Subs Not Used: Given, Fumaca.

Goals: Ferguson 3, 4, Solano 17, Dryden 31 og, Dabizas 83.

Southampton: Jones, Tessem, Richards, Dryden (Beresford 72), Colleter (Benali 45), Ripley, Soltvedt, Hughes, Boa Morte (Monk 23), Davies, Beattie.

Subs Not Used: Moss, Pahars.

Booked: Hughes.

Att: 35,623

BRISTOL ROVERS CHASE WIGAN



Bristol Rovers' Jamie Cureton

Ten-man Wigan had Michael O'Neill to thank for avoiding a second successive home defeat.

His 87th-minute equaliser cancelled out Dave Livermore's 49th-minute effort in the 1-1 draw with Millwall after Stuart Balmer was sent off for deliberate handball.

Bristol Rovers leapfrogged Preston to move into second place with goals from Jamie Cureton, in the 58th minute, and Jason Roberts, in the 66th, putting them in charge against promotion-chasing Gillingham who made it 2-1 through Iffy Onuora two minutes from time.

Burnley's hopes of keeping pace with the leading pack were set back at Saltergate where, although they led through Andy Payton's goal in the fourth minute, they had to settle for a 1-1 draw when Ryan Williams levelled after 73 minutes.

Notts County suffered a similar fate, going down 2-1 at home to lowly Colchester who led through two goals from Steve McGavin, the first a 30th-minute penalty, the other coming on the stroke of half-time.

Kevin Rapley pulled one back after 65 minutes but United's defence held firm.

Blackpool thought their luck had turned under new manager Steve McMahon when Gary Ablett netted his first goal for three years after eight minutes.

And despite Andy Locke equalising for Luton after 27 minutes, further goals from Phil Clarkson and Steve Bushell looked to have made the points secure.

But Phil Gray pulled one back for the Hatters on 82 minutes and Matt Taylor made it 3-3 just before the whistle.

Wrexham registered their first win in 17 games when they triumphed 2-0 over Bury at Gigg Lane with Neil Roberts, in the 45th and 74th minutes, ending a club record run.

Bournemouth's in-and-out form continued with a 3-2 home defeat by Bristol City.

Keith Millen gave City the lead after 31 minutes before Steve Robinson levelled just after the break only for Tony Thorpe to restore the lead after 61 minutes and increase it with a 67th-minute penalty.

Jon O'Neill's 84th-minute effort ensured a nail-biting finish.

Wycombe came from a goal down to sink Scunthorpe with goals from Jamie Bates after 30 minutes and Keith Ryan after 58 minutes giving them a 2-1 win.

Gareth Sheldon had given the Iron the lead in the 19th minute.

Reading, getting almost as desperate for points as Cambridge, had to settle for a 0-0 draw at the Madejski Stadium.

Oldham's biggest league win of the

season was marred as Brentford's sent-off keeper Andy Woodman accused Latics striker Mark Allott of diving.

Allott was left sprawling by Woodman to earn the 76th-minute penalty which wrapped up a 3-0 win and gave Allott his 11th goal of the season.

He scored Oldham's second after Andrew Holt grabbed the opener.

Oldham boss Andy Ritchie revealed: "I said to their keeper after the game that he was unlucky to be sent off but he claimed Mark dived. The lad isn't that sort of player and the keeper definitely touched him."

Rotherham inched to the top of Division Three on Saturday but are one of three clubs level on points with a half-century to their name in a tough battle for promotion.

Barnet drew 0-0 at Exeter and Rotherham beat bottom-of-the-heap Chester 2-0 to go 50 up alongside Swansea, who had their match at Carlisle postponed because of a waterlogged pitch.

Goals from Paul Warne after 21 minutes and Leo Fortune-West after 54 minutes helped the Millers grind out victory to go top on goal difference ahead of the Welshmen.

An 86th-minute penalty from on-loan Jon Cullen robbed 10-man Hartlepool of victory against Halifax.

They had to settle for a 1-1 draw after holding the lead given them by free-scoring Gary Jones in the 24th minute despite having Ian Clark sent off for a second bookable offence.

Darlington led at Macclesfield through Jesper Hjorth's 12th-minute effort, but the Silkmen sealed a 2-1 victory in the first half with goals from Neil Moore and John Askey

after 14 and 34 minutes respectively.

Northampton were another of the top six to go down away from home, a 72nd-minute effort from Jason Lee giving Peterborough a 1-0 success.

Rochdale took a three-goal lead against Southend at Roots Hall but then a side with one of the best away records in the division were stunned as the hosts hit back with three goals in a 30-minute spell.

Scott Houghton started the comeback in the 55th minute, then Martin Carruthers converted a penalty and finally Leo Roget made it 3-3.

Gary Jones (32) and Graham Lancashire (37 and 39) had scored for Rochdale.

A 12th-minute goal from Neil Grayson was enough to give Cheltenham the points via a 1-0 win over Mansfield, while Leyton Orient's away form continued to improve with Ahmet Berkovic netting in the 50th minute to give them a 1-0 success over Brighton.

That lifted them two places up the table.

Plymouth had Sean McCarthy sent off for serious foul play in the 0-0 draw at Shrewsbury, while Hull lost Gary Brabin for the same reason at Lincoln where they went down 2-1.

Tony Fleming, with a 12th minute penalty, and Tony Battersby just before the interval gave the Imps the advantage, and David Brown's reply in the 83rd minute was too little too late for the Tigers.

York twice led Torquay with goals from James Turley (16) and Christian Fox (69).

But Brian Healy (40) and Tony Bedeau (79) ensured a 2-2 draw.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Leeds	21	14	2	5	35	24	44	11
Man Utd	19	13	4	2	50	25	43	25
Arsenal	22	13	4	5	41	22	43	19
Liverpool	22	12	4	6	34	20	40	14
Sunderland	22	11	5	6	36	29	38	7
Chelsea	22	10	6	6	31	22	36	9
Tottenham	22	10	5	7	34	26	35	8
Leicester	22	9	4	9	31	31	31	0
Everton	22	7	9	6	37	32	30	5
Aston Villa	22	8	6	8	22	23	30	-1
West Ham	21	7	8	6	25	24	29	1
Coventry	21	7	7	7	30	24	28	6
Newcastle	22	7	6	9	39	37	27	2
Middlesbrough	20	8	3	9	24	30	27	-6
Wimbledon	22	5	10	7	32	37	25	-5
Derby	22	6	4	12	23	33	22	-10
Southampton	21	5	5	11	24	37	20	-13
Bradford	22	4	6	12	16	33	18	-17
Watford	22	4	2	16	19	47	14	-28
Sheff Wed	21	3	4	14	19	46	13	-27

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Charlton	27	17	5	5	49	28	56	21
Man City	27	17	4	6	44	21	55	23
Ipswich	27	15	7	5	46	27	52	19
Barnsley	27	16	4	7	54	38	52	16
Huddersfield	27	14	5	8	44	29	47	15
Stockport	27	11	8	8	32	35	41	-3
Blackburn	26	10	10	6	34	25	40	9
Fulham	27	9	12	6	25	24	39	1
QPR	27	10	9	8	35	31	39	4
Wolverhampton	27	10	9	8	34	30	39	4
Birmingham	26	10	8	8	36	28	38	8
Norwich	27	10	8	9	27	27	38	0
Tranmere	27	10	6	11	37	37	36	0
Bolton	26	9	8	9	34	30	35	4
Crystal Palace	27	8	8	11	36	43	32	-7
Sheff Utd	27	8	7	12	34	43	31	-9
Grimsby	27	8	6	13	31	48	30	-17
Nottm Forest	27	7	7	13	29	36	28	-7
West Brom	27	5	13	9	24	32	28	-8
Crewe	27	7	7	13	25	34	28	-9
Walsall	27	6	7	14	28	43	25	-15
Port Vale	26	5	9	12	28	36	24	-8
Portsmouth	27	5	8	14	30	44	23	-14
Swindon	27	3	9	15	18	45	18	-27

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Wigan	26	15	10	1	48	22	55	26
Bristol Rovers	26	16	5	5	38	21	53	17
Preston	25	15	7	3	43	21	52	22
Millwall	27	13	9	5	42	29	48	13
Stoke	26	13	8	5	38	23	47	15
Burnley	25	12	8	5	34	22	44	12
Notts County	27	12	7	8	39	29	43	10
Gillingham	24	12	6	6	43	30	42	13
Brentford	27	10	7	10	36	37	37	-1
Wycombe	26	9	9	8	33	32	36	1
Bournemouth	27	10	5	12	38	40	35	-2
Oldham	26	9	7	10	29	29	34	0
Luton	26	9	7	10	34	37	34	-3
Bristol City	26	7	12	7	31	31	33	0
Bury	24	7	10	7	37	33	31	4
Colchester	26	7	7	12	34	52	28	-18
Cardiff	26	5	10	11	25	35	25	-10
Oxford Utd	25	6	7	12	24	34	25	-10
Wrexham	25	5	10	10	23	36	25	-13
Scunthorpe	25	6	6	13	25	42	24	-17
Reading	25	4	10	11	28	43	22	-15
Blackpool	26	3	10	13	27	46	19	-19
Chesterfield	25	3	9	13	15	29	18	-14
Cambridge Utd	25	3	8	14	30	41	17	-11

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rotherham	27	15	5	7	41	19	50	22
Swansea	26	15	5	6	29	17	50	12
Barnet	27	14	8	5	37	26	50	11
Darlington	26	13	7	6	35	19	46	16
Hartlepool	27	13	4	10	37	29	43	8
Northampton	27	12	6	9	31	25	42	6
Macclesfield	27	12	6	9	40	36	42	4
Halifax	27	12	6	9	31	28	42	3
Peterborough	25	12	5	8	36	34	41	2
Torquay	26	11	7	8	37	31	40	6
Rochdale	26	11	7	8	28	22	40	6
Plymouth	25	10	9	6	33	27	39	6
Cheltenham	26	11	5	10	26	24	38	2
Brighton	26	9	7	10	38	32	34	6
Lincoln City	25	9	7	9	37	38	34	-1
Southend	27	9	7	11	37	41	34	-4
Mansfield	25	9	5	11	32	36	32	-4
Hull	26	8	7	11	25	27	31	-2
Exeter	26	7	6	13	29	39	27	-10
York	25	6	8	11	24	34	26	-10
Leyton Orient	26	6	6	14	23	34	24	-11
Shrewsbury	27	6	6	15	23	41	24	-18
Carlisle	26	5	7	14	26	44	22	-18
Chester	27	4	4	19	23	55	16	-32

SCOTTISH PREMIER LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Rangers	17	14	2	1	45	14	44	31
Celtic	18	13	1	4	53	16	40	37
Dundee Utd	19	9	3	7	25	29	30	-4
Motherwell	17	7	6	4	28	30	27	-2
Hibernian	20	6	7	7	32	35	25	-3
Hearts	18	5	5	8	26	28	20	-2
St Johnstone	18	5	5	8	18	23	20	-5
Dundee	17	6	1	10	21	28	19	-7
Kilmarnock	18	2	7	9	18	28	13	-10
Aberdeen	18	3	3	12	20	55	12	-35

SCOTTISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
St Mirren	21	14	5	2	51	24	47	27
Dunfermline	22	11	8	3	39	22	41	17
Raith	21	11	5	5	40	27	38	13
Falkirk	23	11	5	7	41	33	38	8
Livingston	21	10	6	5	37	28	36	9
Inverness CT	22	7	7	8	35	34	28	1
Ayr	22	7	5	10	26	30	26	-4
Airdrie	23	5	6	12	17	41	21	-24
Greenock Morton	22	5	5	12	30	42	20	-12
Clydebank	21	0	4	17	13	48	4	-35

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Clyde	19	9	6	4	26	15	33	11
Alloa	19	7	10	2	24	19	31	5
Stranraer	21	6	10	5	28	23	28	5
Ross County	17	8	4	5	19	15	28	4
Arbroath	20	7	7	6	30	30	28	0
Stirling	20	7	4	9	38	35	25	3
Stenhousemuir	20	7	4	9	25	27	25	-2
Partick	20	6	6	8	17	21	24	-4
Hamilton	20	5	7	8	22	27	22	-5
Queen of South	20	5	4	11	24	41	19	-17

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	GD
Queen's Park	20	11	4	5	32	24	37	8
East Fife	19	10	3	6	24	21	33	3
Cowdenbeath	21	9	5	7	30	23	32	7
Berwick	19	8	6	5	27	16	30	11
Forfar	18	7	8	3	31	20	29	11
Dumbarton	19	8	3	8	30	31	27	-1
Montrose	20	7	3	10	23	28	24	-5
East Stirling	18	6	4	8	16	21	22	-5
Brechin	19	5	3	11	22	31	18	-9
Albion	19	3	5	11	19	39	14	-20

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE - ROUND SEVENTEEN

CARLTON v NORTHERN SPIRIT

- 1 Dean Anastasiadis
- 2 Dave McPherson
- 3 Craig Deans
- 4 Simon Colosimo
- 5 Sean Douglas
- 6 Andrew Marth
- 7 Stuart Slater
- 8 Mark Atkinson
- 9 Alex Moreira
- 10 Lubo Lapsansky
- 11 Archie Thompson
- 12 Mike Conroy
- 13 Steve Martin
- 14 John Markovski
- 15 Con Anthopoulos
- 16 David Terminello
- 17 Joe Tricarico
- 18 David Della Rocca
- 19 Serdar Pir
- 20 Adrian Cagalj
- 21 Andrew Packer
- 22 Angelo Motsiopoulos
- 23 Colin Azzopardi
- 24 Joshua Kennedy



- 1 John Perosh
- 2 Robert Enes
- 3 Matthew Langdon
- 4 Matthew Bingley
- 5 Mark Rudan
- 6 Luke Casserley
- 7 Robbie Slater
- 8 Tony Perinich
- 9 David Seal
- 11 Troy Cranney
- 12 Simon Catanzaro
- 13 Phillip Moss
- 14 Shane Lyons
- 15 Anthony Faria
- 17 Paul Bilokapic
- 18 Paul Wearne
- 20 Jess Van Stratten
- 21 Michael Cunico
- 22 Paul Henderson
- 23 Adam Snyder
- 24 Elvis Olic
- 25 Ryan Griffiths
- 26 Jack Sobczyk
- 27 Adam Griffiths
- 28 Abbas Saad
- 29 Ian Crook



Venue: Olympic Park - Friday 21 January 2000 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 2 Carlton wins: 0 Spirit wins: 2 Draws 0
 Last Week: Carlton 3-2 away loss to Wolves
 Spirit 1-1 home draw with Glory

TELECAST FRIDAY 7.30PM
 C7 SPORT - CHANNEL 12

NEWCASTLE BREAKERS v ADELAIDE CITY FORCE

- 1 Bob Catlin
- 2 Shane Pryce
- 3 Andrew Roberts
- 4 Adam Sanderson
- 5 Todd McManus
- 6 Glenn Sprod
- 7 Travis Dodd
- 8 Mark Wilson
- 9 Chris Tancheski
- 10 John Buonavoglia
- 11 Luke Tomich
- 12 Robert Angievski
- 13 Brad Wiecezorek
- 14 Greg Owens
- 15 Joshua Ferguson
- 16 Vasko Trpcovski
- 17 Paul Wheeler
- 18 Andrew Harper
- 19 Chad Mansley
- 20 Bradley Swancott
- 21 Peter Juchniewicz
- 22 Glen Moore
- 23 Damien Smith
- 24
- 25
- 26



- 1 Vilson Knezevic
- 2 Ivan Zelic
- 3
- 4
- 5 Alex Tobin
- 6 Carlo Talladira
- 7 Damian Mori
- 8 Carl Veart
- 9 Nick Sabljak
- 10 Aurelio Vidmar
- 11
- 12 Nathan Day
- 13 John Fusco
- 14 Michael Cartwright
- 15 Louis Brain
- 16 Matthew Kemp
- 17 Angelo Costanzo
- 18 Bradley Hassell
- 19 Atilio Hornjik
- 20
- 21 Dong Ki Kim
- 22
- 23 Jonathan Lihou



Venue: Breakers Stadium - Friday 21 January 2000 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 4 wins: Breakers 1 Force wins: 3 Draws 0
 Last Week: Breakers N/A
 Force 1-1 away draw with Knights

PARRAMATTA POWER v GIPPSLAND FALCONS

- 1 Andrew Crews
- 2 David Barrett
- 3 Michael Santalab
- 4 Steve Eagleton
- 5 Richard Plesa
- 6 Joe Vrkic
- 7 Jacob Burns
- 8 Walter Ardone
- 9 Mile Sterjovski
- 10 Joel Griffiths
- 11 Steve Berry
- 12 Stephen Laybutt
- 13 Milan Blagojevic
- 14 John Angelucci
- 15 Danny Townsend
- 16 Mark Byrnes
- 17 Danny Kukucka
- 18 Lachlan Campbell
- 19 Matt Thompson
- 20 Barney Smith
- 21 Ahmid Elrich
- 23 John Gibson
- 28 Peter Bennett
- 30 Mike Gibson



- 1 Bojo Jevdjovic
- 2 Dean Fak
- 3 Manny Gotis
- 4 Mehmed Durakovic
- 5 Jeff Hopkins
- 6 Brian MacNichol
- 7 Andy Vargas
- 8 Clayton Bell
- 9 Robbie Puca
- 10 Sandy Robertson
- 11 John Hutchinson
- 12 Peter Kakos
- 13 Adrian Savage
- 14 Doug Marcina
- 15 Jonathon Buhugiar
- 16 Juan Nilo
- 17 Will Hastie
- 18 Michael Katz
- 19 Ivan Mandic
- 20 Simon Miotto



Venue: Parramatta Stadium - Saturday 22 January 2000 7.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 1 Power: 0 Falcons wins: 0 Draws 1
 Last week: Power N/A
 Falcons 2-1 home win over Strikers

BRISBANE STRIKERS v MARCONI STALLIONS

- 1 Clint Bolton
- 2 Glenn Gwynne
- 3 Shane Stefanutto
- 4 Andrew Davidson
- 5 Matthew Bell
- 6 Brad Ditton
- 7 Shane Smeltz
- 8 David Pilic
- 9 Paul Foster
- 10 Wayne Srhoj
- 11 Greg Di Losa
- 12 Pete Dwyer
- 13 Stuart McClaren
- 14 Jade North
- 15 Leo Langone
- 16 Peter Grierson
- 17 Jeromy Harris
- 18 Nick Meredith
- 19 Wade Baldwin
- 20 Daniel Duke



- 1 Michael Turnbull
- 2 Chad Gibson
- 3 Mark Babic
- 5 Dominic Longo
- 6 Pan-Keum Kim
- 7 Christian Care
- 8 Darren McDonald
- 9 Zeljko Babic
- 10 Brad Maloney
- 11 Mike Smith
- 13 Danny Invincible
- 14 Buddy Farah
- 15 Pierluigi di Gia
- 16 Alex Duric
- 17 Francis Awaritefe
- 18 Harry Karl
- 19 Brendan Ranaud
- 20 David Aceski
- 21 Paolo Marchesini
- 22 Kris Trajanovski
- 23 Vlado Zoric
- 24 Josaia Junior Sauturaga
- 26 Daniel Severino



Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium - Saturday 22 January 2000 7.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 17 Strikers wins: 9 Marconi wins: 4 Draws 4
 Last week: Strikers 2-1 away loss to Falcons
 Marconi 2-3 home loss to Cosmos

TELECAST SATURDAY 8.00PM
 C7 SPORT - CHANNEL 12

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v CANBERRA COSMOS

- 2 Joey Rayher
- 3 Ivan Jolic
- 4 Ante Kovacevic
- 5 Jason Vukadin
- 6 John Didulica
- 7 Mark Silic
- 8 Dragi Nastevski
- 9 Ivan Kelic
- 10 Paul Urlovic
- 11 Mijo Trupkovic
- 12 Murtala Toyin Abbas
- 13 Lance Plunkett
- 14 Paul Magdic
- 15 Ransford Banini
- 16 Alex Kriatzoglou
- 17 Brandon Vassalo
- 18 Roddy Vargas
- 19 Zlatko Maglic
- 20 Martin John
- 21 Zeljko Susa
- 22 Steven Tillinger
- 23 Michael Reda
- 24 Hrvoje Matkovic
- 25 Adrian Cervinski
- 26 Marko Prskalo
- 30 Lupce Acevski



- 1 David Milin
- 2 Toplica Popovich
- 3 Danny Burt
- 4 Nicholas Purdue
- 5 Jason Polak
- 6 David Winnie
- 7 Daniel Watkins
- 8 Alex Castro
- 10 Michael Musitano
- 11 David Arranz
- 12 Brian Hamilton
- 13
- 14 Harry James
- 15 Glen Kolpak
- 16 Ilija Prenzowski
- 17 Robbie Hooker
- 18 Nikola Mrdja
- 19 Geoff Howarth
- 20 Grant Barlow
- 21 Scott Conlon
- 22 Elliot Zwangobani
- 23
- 24 PJ Roberts
- 25 Ivo De Jesus



Venue: Knights Stadium - Sunday 23 January 2000 6.00PM
 Head to Head: Played 9 Knights wins: 5 Cosmos wins: 1 Draws 3
 Last week: Knights 1-1 home draw with Force
 Cosmos 2-3 away win over Stallions

WOLLONGONG WOLVES v SYDNEY UNITED

- 1 Leslie Pogliacomli
- 2 George Souris
- 3 Alvin Ceccoli
- 4 Robert Stanton
- 5 David Cervinski
- 6 Matthew Horsley
- 7 Paul Reid
- 8 Anthony Surjan
- 9 Sasho Dimoski
- 10 Stuart Young
- 11 Scott Chipperfield
- 12 Neil Harlock
- 13 Noel Spencer
- 14 Saso Petrovski
- 15 David Huxley
- 16 Peter Lahanas
- 17 Esala Masi
- 18 Chad Bishop
- 19 Paul Dimech
- 20 Daniel Bertrame
- 21 Christian Zelvis



- 1 John Crawley
- 2 Ray Younis
- 3 Mark Racker
- 4 Velimir Kupresak
- 5 Eddie Bosnar
- 6 Vince Savocca
- 7 Mirko Jurilj
- 8 Nahuel Arrarte
- 9 Mario Jermen
- 10 Ante Moric
- 11 Tom Pondeljak
- 12 Tom Maric
- 13 Matthew Zec
- 14 Kain Rastall
- 15 Aytac Genc
- 16 Joe Moric
- 17 Nick Bosevski
- 18 Steve Bozinovski
- 19 Greg Saric
- 20 Steve Tolios
- 21 Zvonko Usljebrka
- 22 Colin Luff
- 23 Terry Palapanis
- 24 Andy Rakic
- 25 Ante Deak
- 30 Brett Hughes



Venue: Brandon Park - Sunday 23 January 2000 6.30PM
 Head to Head: Played 33 Wolves wins: 5 United wins: 21 Draws 7
 Last Week: Wolves 3-2 home win over Carlton
 United 2-0 home win over Olympic

SUNDAY 23 JANUARY 7.30 PM
C7 SPORT CHANNEL 12

SYDNEY OLYMPIC



V SOUTH MELBOURNE



SYDNEY OLYMPIC

- 1 Jim Kourtis
- 2 Scott Thomas
- 3 Chris Zoricich
- 4 Peter Tsekenis
- 5 Scott Baillie
- 6 Ante Juric (right)
- 7 Zlatko Arambasic
- 8 Marcus Phillips
- 9 Pablo Cardozo
- 10 Brett Emerton
- 11 Chris Kalantzis
- 12 Sebastian Sinozic
- 13
- 14 Gabriel Mendez
- 15 Lindsay Wilson
- 16
- 17 Paul Kohler
- 18 John Kyriazopoulos
- 19 Nick Carle
- 20 George Bouhoutsos
- 21 Lee Miot
- 22 Pete Zorbas
- 23 Dylan Macallister
- 24 Norman Tome
- 25 Hussein Jomaa
- 26 Adam Ciantar
- 30 John Karoubas



SOUTH MELBOURNE

- 1 Milan Udvaracz
- 2 Steve Iosifidis
- 3 Fausto de Amicis
- 4 Nick Orlic
- 5 Con Blatsis
- 6 David Clarkson
- 7 Steve Panopoulos
- 8 Vaughan Coveny
- 9 Paul Trimboli
- 10 Michael Curcija
- 11 John Anastasiadis
- 12 Richie Alagich(right)
- 13 Adrian Cuzzupe
- 14 Anthony Magnacca
- 15 Goran Lozanovski
- 16 George Goutzoullis
- 17 Jim Tsekinis
- 18 Robert Liparoti
- 19 Tasos Psonis
- 20 Chris Jones
- 21
- 22 Mustafa Mustafa



Venue: Belmore Sports Ground

Sunday 23 January 6.30PM



Head to Head: Played 43 Olympic wins: 8 South wins: 22 Draws 13

Last Week: Olympic : 2-0 away loss to Sydney United South: N/A

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